





GRADED LESSONS' SYSTEM

CATECHISM PART II

GRADE IV

WITH

VOGT'S OLD TESTAMENT  
BIBLE HISTORY

AS SUPPLEMENT



BY

REV. H. P. GRIMSBY, REV. C. K. SOLBERG,  
CARL RAUGLAND



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## INTRODUCTION.

**O**UR Graded System as approved and accepted by the Inter-synodical Committee on Graded Lessons divides the courses of instruction into four departments.

**BEGINNERS' DEPARTMENT**, two years, ages 4 and 5. In this Department two series of picture cards with Bible Stories from the Old and New Testament are studied.

**PRIMARY DEPARTMENT**, two years, grades I and II, ages 6 and 7. For this Department two Bible story books on the Old and New Testament have been prepared for each grade. The Bible Stories are supplemented with the text of the Catechism and appropriate memory verses.

**CATECHISM DEPARTMENT**, three years, grades III-V, ages 8-10.

**EXPLANATION DEPARTMENT**, three years, grades VI-VIII, ages 11-13.

In the series of lessons prepared for the Catechism and Explanation Departments the Catechism forms the basis for instruction. Each lesson begins with the Catechism, set in attractive bold type. A Bible story, a memory verse, and Bible verses are supplemented to illustrate and explain the Catechism lesson.

Three groups of Bible stories have been selected for the three series of lessons in the Catechism Department. In the first series for Grade III, the Bible stories were selected from the books written by Mrs. C. M. Christianson for Grades II, 20 stories from the Old Testament and 29 from the New Testament. In a few lessons the Bible stories had to be shortened because of limited space.

In the second series for Grade IV, the Bible stories were selected from Vogt's Old Testament Bible Stories.

In the third series for Grade V, the Bible stories were selected from Vogt's New Testament Stories.

In the first series, the Catechism without Luther's Explanation is given, supplemented with a simple Bible verse and a Golden Text. The Golden Texts are the same as given with the same Bible Stories in the Primary Department, except where a new Golden Text will harmonize better with the Catechism Lesson. In the second series of lessons, the whole Catechism is given, supplemented by suitable Bible Verses and Golden Texts. The Bible Verses and the Memory Verses of

the first series are also reviewed. This second revised edition is also supplemented with Vogt's New Testament Bible History, divided into suitable lessons to be studied in connection with the Catechism Lessons. Suitable maps are also added.

In the third series, the Catechism Lesson and Bible Verses of the second series are reviewed, supplemented by the new Bible Verses, Golden Text, and a Memory Verse from the Lutheran Hymnary, Junior. The revised edition also contains as supplement Vogt's New Testament Bible History, divided into lessons. Suitable maps on New Testament scenes are also added.

All the Bible Verses used in these three series have been selected from Pontoppidan's, Sverdrup's, and the Synod's Explanations, and most of them are found in all three Explanations. When the pupils have finished the Catechism Department, they will therefore also have memorized most of the Bible Verses found in the Explanation used in the Explanation Department.

The Catechism text used in these series is the Standard Text with a few minor changes as agreed upon by the Joint Committee. The Catechism text is set in bolder type than any other matter in the lesson so that the child can see at a glance what part of the lesson is the real Catechism lesson. The aim in this system of grading is not to depreciate the place and importance of the Catechism, but on the contrary to help the pupils to better grasp and remember its sublime truths, by supplementing it with fitting Bible verses and Bible Stories.

Objections will undoubtedly be raised because of the irregular position of the pictures. But to retain the original form of having the lesson on two opposite pages for convenience in learning and teaching the lesson, it was impossible to place the pictures in regular order. Two lessons and two pictures had to be placed together alternately. But in all cases the picture illustrates the lesson next to it, so that it should not be confusing when the child gets to understand the arrangement.

H. P. GRIMSBY.

Minneapolis, Minn., May, 1918.

## TO THE TEACHER.

**T**HERE are three conditions necessary for successful teaching in the Sunday school, as well as in any other school: Preparation, class work, and proper method of teaching.

**PREPARATION.**—These graded lessons are not intended to make preparation superfluous and unnecessary for the teacher, but rather to help the teacher to prepare the lesson better. Study the parts to be memorized carefully, and be sure that you understand them yourself. You cannot teach others what you do not understand yourself. Be sure that you know the meaning of all the difficult words that are found in the lesson, so that you can explain them. Study the Bible Story in connection with the references given under "Notes and Suggestions" so that you know the whole story and what leads up to it. Note that each lesson has a central thought around which the material is grouped. This should be kept clearly in mind when preparing and teaching the Bible Story, so that special emphasis is laid on that part of the story which illustrates the central thought in the lesson.

The questions on the lesson are not strictly catechetical, but are intended as a guide for pupils and teachers. They suggest how the lesson should be approached, studied and applied, and should suggest additional questions in the minds of the pupils and the teacher. The Notes and Suggestions are mainly for the teacher, and should be studied in connection with the questions. The teacher who studies these questions and suggestions carefully, will have twice or three times as many questions ready for the class, and many new questions will suggest themselves while he is teaching the lesson. Be very sparing in asking questions that can be answered by yes or no. Ask questions that will make the pupils think, or answer from personal experience and feeling.

Prepare your lesson under prayer to God for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. Remember that you are especially responsible to God how and what you teach His little children. Come to class thoroughly prepared, and then you can conscientiously and joyfully say, "Freely I have received, and freely I shall give."

**CLASS WORK.**—By this we mean that all the pupils in the class study the same lesson. This is invariably the practice



followed in the public schools, and why should it not be practiced in the public schools? If a pupil is absent one or more Sundays, he should be assigned the same lesson as the rest of the class when he returns, and be asked to make up the lesson studied during his absence, if he has not already done so. Give the pupils the understanding that they must prepare their lesson whether they can be present in class or not. Impress this upon them by asking pupils who were absent the previous Sunday to give part or all of the review lesson for the day.

**METHOD OF TEACHING.**—Every recitation should begin with a review of the preceding lesson. In some cases this is practical in order to get the connection between the lessons, but in all cases it is essential to learning and remembering the lessons. Lessons cannot be reviewed too often; it is so easy to forget, even for the brightest pupils. The precious time wasted by some teachers in reading Sunday school papers to the class, can be much more profitably spent in reviewing former lessons.

Begin the assigned lesson by asking the pupils to recite the parts to be memorized and to tell the Bible Story. This should be done without comments by the teacher. Insist on that books be closed while pupils recite. The parts to be memorized are the Catechism Lesson, the Golden Text, and the Bible Texts, and the Memory Verses whenever they occur. Insist on that all pupils learn their lesson, and learn it well, but be sparing with scolding when some fail to learn their lesson. Kind words and encouragement usually prove more profitable than scolding, and especially a word spoken in private.

When the pupils have recited the lesson, turn to the questions. A short introduction by the teacher as suggested in the Notes will prove very profitable here both to win renewed interest and attention, and to give a setting to the lesson. As you ask the questions given in the lesson and follow the Notes and Suggestions, additional questions should suggest themselves, either to make the given question clearer, or to get the meaning of words, or to appeal to the experience or feelings of the pupils. Do not be afraid of becoming too sentimental, or too direct in personal questions. Remember that the great aim in your teaching should be to teach personal responsibility, and to draw the hearts of the pupils to Christ. You are a servant of Christ, who says: "Whatsoever ye do for one of these little children who believe in me, ye do to me." It is not only a matter of teaching the mind, but also of moving the heart. The knowledge received should become a living knowledge, so that the pupils will not only know the truth, but love the truth, and desire to live according to the truth. Show great interest in

all your pupils, but special interest in those who seem to be indifferent as to applying the truth they learn. Plead with them privately and pray for them that they may give their hearts to Christ.

At the close of each recitation reserve a few minutes to go over the next lesson. Read it through with the pupils and point out parts that need special study and emphasis. Ask pupils to look up the meaning of new and difficult words found in the lesson.

H. P. GRIMSBY.

## THE WORD OF GOD.

### THE CATECHISM.

- PART I. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.
- PART II. THE APOSTLES' CREED.
- PART III. THE LORD'S PRAYER.
- PART IV. THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM.
- PART V. THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR.

### BIBLE TEXTS.

2 Peter 1:21.—The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Ps. 119:105:—Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

### MOSES IN MIDIAN.

Moses lived with Pharaoh (king) in Egypt till he was forty years old. One day Pharaoh became very angry at Moses and threatened to kill him. Moses had to flee and came to Midian, to a priest by the name of Jethro.

Once when he kept Jethro's flocks at Mount Horeb, he saw a bush which burned, and was not consumed. When he drew near to see, the Lord spoke this to him from the bush: I am the God of Abraham and of Isaac and Jacob; I have seen the affliction of my people and heard their cry; now I will send thee to Pharaoh, and thou shalt bring my people out of Egypt. Moses answered: My brethren will not believe that Thou hast sent me. The Lord gave him power to work wonders; but Moses continued to excuse himself, and said: I am slow of speech. The Lord answered: I will send thy brother Aaron to thee, and he shall speak for thee. Then Moses and Aaron went to the Israelites and told them the words of the Lord, and they rejoiced and bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord. Ex. 2-4.



## QUESTIONS.

1. *To whom did God speak the words of the Golden Text?*
2. *From where did God speak?*
3. *What did God say about Himself?*
4. *What did God tell Moses to do?*
5. *Where does God speak to us? In His Word, the Bible.*
6. *Who wrote the Bible for God? Prophets, evangelists and apostles.*
7. *Who told these men what to write? See first Bible Text.*
8. *What does our second Bible Text say about the Bible?*
9. *What book contains a summary of the teachings of the Bible? The Catechism.*
10. *Give the five parts of the Catechism.*
11. *What do the Ten Commandments tell us? What we should do and not do.*
12. *What does the Creed tell us? What we shall believe.*
13. *What does the Lord's Prayer teach us? How to pray.*
14. *What does the Sacrament of Holy Baptism teach us? How we became children of God.*
15. *What does the Sacrament of the Altar teach us? How God strengthens and keeps His children.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Ex. 2-4. Let pupils tell about the earlier life of Moses, and how it happened that he came into Midian. Up to this time, God had not given His people any written Word as we have in the Bible. When He wanted to tell the people something, He spoke to certain men, and they were to bring His words to the people. Before this time, God had spoken to such men as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The men to whom God spoke His Word in olden time, are called prophets. God chose Moses to become one of the great prophets to whom He spoke His Word. (6) Later on God told some of these prophets to write down what He spoke to them, so that the people could get the Word of God to read and study, as we do now. The part of the Bible written by these prophets is called the Old Testament. The evangelists and apostles wrote about the life and teaching of Jesus, and this part of the Bible is called the New Testament. (7) The Holy Spirit told these men what God wanted written as His Word to His people, therefore what they wrote is truly the Word of God. Emphasize that everything in our Bible is the Word of God. (8) How glad we ought to be that we have the Bible to tell us about God, and how we can be saved and come to Him in heaven. (9) The Bible is so simple that even children can read it, and they ought to read it. The Catechism contains a summary of the teachings of the Bible in a short and simple form and serves as an introduction to the study of the Bible and a better understanding of it. Apply Memory Verse for review.

LESSON I.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ex. 4:12.—Now therefore go, and I will teach thee what thou shalt say.



MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH.

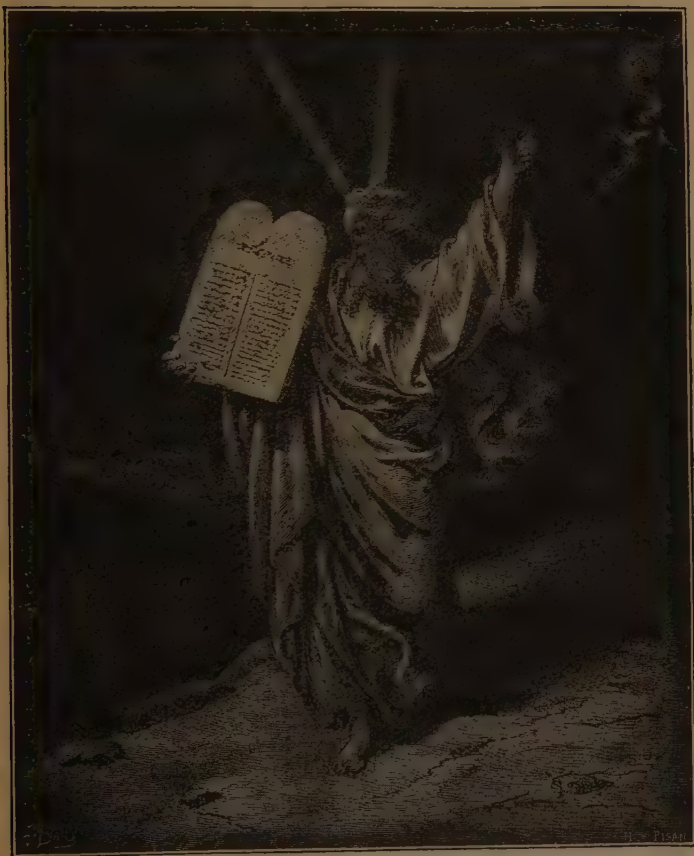
MEMORY VERSE.

Lord Jesus Christ, be present now,  
And let Thy Holy Spirit bow  
All hearts in love and fear today,  
To hear the truth and keep Thy way. (16:1.)

LESSON II.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ex. 32:16.—And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables.



MOSES BRINGS THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

MEMORY VERSE.

Unseal our lips to sing Thy praise,  
Our hearts in true devotion raise;  
Our faith increase, our minds enlight,  
That we may know Thy name aright. (16:2.)

# PART I. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

## LESSON II.

### THE LAW.

#### BIBLE TEXTS.

1 Tim. 1:5.—The end of the Commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.

Rom. 13:10.—Love worketh no evil to his neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

### GIVING OF THE LAW.

In the third month, after they had gone out of Egypt, the Israelites encamped at Mount Sinai. Three days after a thick cloud covered the mountain. The mountain shook and smoked as an oven, for the Lord descended in fire on the mountain. The Lord then spoke the Ten Commandments to the people.

A few days later the Lord called Moses and said: Come to me upon the mountain, and I will give thee the Tables of the Law. Moses was with the Lord for forty days and forty nights. And the Lord gave him the two tables of the Law. They were written on both sides, and written by God's own finger. While Moses was on the mountain the people asked Aaron to make a golden calf, and the people danced around it. When Moses came down from the mountain, and saw the calf and the dance, his anger was kindled, and he cast the tables against the mountain so they broke, and he took the golden calf and ground it to powder and strewed it on the brook that runs down the mountain. Then he bade the Levites to go with drawn sword through the camp, and 3,000 were killed on the same day. Moses went again on the mountain, and was there for forty days and forty nights, and he ate no bread and drank no water, and the Lord wrote the Ten Commandments on two new tables of stone. These were afterward kept in the Ark of the Covenant. Ex. 19:20-32.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What tables does our Golden Text refer to? The Ten Commandments.*
2. *How did God first give the people the Ten Commandments?*
3. *From what mountain did He speak to them?*
4. *Why did God write the Commandments? So they could keep them and not forget them.*
5. *To what man did God give two tables?*
6. *What did Moses do with the first tables God gave him?*
7. *How did he get two new tables?*
8. *What is the purpose and end of the Commandments according to our first Bible Text?*
9. *What is meant by "conscience"? It is the Commandments of God written in our heart.*
10. *When can we have a good conscience?*
11. *When do people get a bad conscience?*
12. *What is the fulfilling of the Commandments according to our second Bible Text?*
13. *How many Commandments belong to each table of the Law? Three to the first and seven to the second.*
14. *What does the first table teach? Love to God.*
15. *What does the second table teach? Love to our neighbor as well as to ourselves.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Ex. 19:20-32. Let pupils tell again the Bible Story in lesson 1, and tell briefly the story of Israel leaving Egypt, leading up to the story in this lesson. (2) God had from time to time made known His will to His people through men like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but now He put His will down in ten simple Commandments, so that the people could understand them better and remember them better. (4) God Himself wrote the Ten Commandments. This shows how holy and important He considered these Commandments to be. (6) The fact that the people forgot the Commandments and broke them a few days after God had given them, shows how necessary it was to have the Commandments written. (7) It was only through the prayer of Moses that God spared the people from being destroyed, and decided to give them another set of tables. (8) "Charity" means love. God's law demands that we shall love Him out of a pure heart. And if our heart is pure from sin, we will have a good conscience. "Faith unfeigned" is faith that is true, not feigned or put on. (9) Conscience can also be expressed as the voice of God that speaks in our heart. (12) If we could love God from a pure heart we would keep the first three Commandments. We could then also love our neighbor from a pure heart, and fulfill the last seven Commandments. (15) Questions on the Memory Verse may be asked in conclusion.



THE FIRST COMMANDMENT.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

*What is meant by this?*

We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

BIBLE TEXTS.

Matt. 6:24.—Ye can not serve God and mammon.

Matt. 10:37.—He that loveth father or mother more than me, is not worthy of me.

THE GOLDEN CALF.

The Lord asked Moses to come upon Mount Sinai to receive the Tables of the Law, and he remained there forty days. When the people saw that he delayed, they came to Aaron, the high priest, and said: Make us gods which shall go before us. We know not what has become of Moses. Aaron commanded them to bring all their golden ear rings, and he made a golden calf. When the people saw it they said: These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee out of Egypt. Then they sacrificed to it and danced around it.

When the Lord saw this, He became exceedingly angry, and said to Moses: Behold, this is a stiffnecked people. Now let me alone, that I may destroy them, and I will make of thee a great nation. Moses then pleaded with God for the people and said: Turn from Thy fierce wrath against Thy people, and remember the many promises that Thou hast made to them about blessing them and bringing them back to Canaan.

When Moses came down the mountain, and saw the people, the calf and the dance, his anger was kindled, and he cast the tables against the mountain so they broke, and he took the golden calf and ground it to powder and strewed it on the brook that runs down the mountain, and made the people drink of the water. Then he told the Levites to go with drawn swords through the camp, and 3,000 were killed on the same day. Ex. 32.



## QUESTIONS.

1. *What did the people ask for in our Golden Text?*
2. *Where had they seen calf worship before? In Egypt.*
3. *How did Moses feel when he heard about it?*
4. *What Commandment had they sinned against?*
5. *What did Moses do with the idol?*
6. *How were the people punished?*
7. *What people worship strange gods today?*
8. *How can you help them to learn about the true God?*
9. *What idols may Christians be tempted to worship? Mammon, that is, things like money, goods, dress, animals.*
10. *What does our Bible Text say about mammon?*
11. *What is meant by serving mammon? It means to love and trust these temporal things more than we do God.*
12. *Do we have any right to love temporal things? Yes, because God has given them to us to enjoy.*
13. *What must we guard against? That they do not take God's place in our heart.*
14. *Whom are you to love and trust above all things?*
15. *What does Jesus say in the second Bible Text?*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Ex. 32. Review the events leading up to Moses going upon Mt. Sinai. Tell who Aaron was, and how the people brought their jewels to make the golden calf. Emphasize how angry God became, and threatened to destroy the whole people, and how Moses prayed for them. Point out how good God had been to the people in saving them from Egypt, and that they had no reason to turn to idols. (7) Heathen people serve strange gods, because they do not know any better. (8) Therefore it is our duty to tell them about the true God. Point out different ways of working for missions. (9) We may be tempted to make idols of mammon, that is, money or earthly possessions, pleasure, ourselves, and our friends. Point out how good God has been to us, and that we have no reason to forsake Him, and trust in temporal things. Therefore we speak as we do in our Memory Verse. Explain. (11) Point out how Abraham served God, so that no temporal things could tempt him when he saved Lot. (13) Because it is so easy for temporal things to get the most important place in our heart, we must continually be on guard, and ask God to keep our heart for Him. (15) Children can not think too much of their parents, but they must always remember that our Heavenly Father deserves and wants our highest fear and love and trust.

LESSON III.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ex. 32:1.—They said unto Aaron: Make us gods who shall go before us.



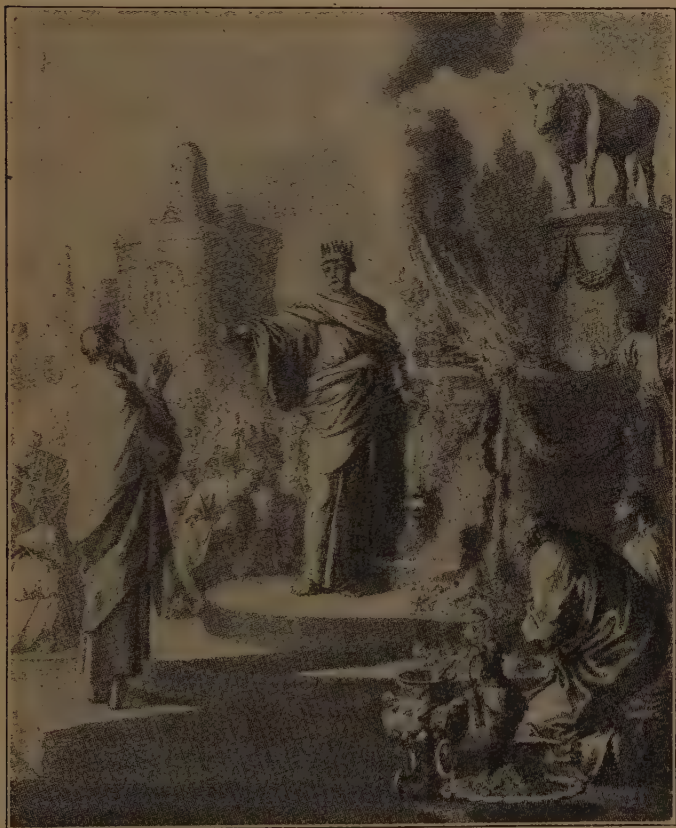
THE PEOPLE WORSHIPPING THE GOLDEN CALF.

MEMORY VERSE.

The Lord my faithful Shepherd is,  
And me He safely guideth;  
I shall not want, for I am His  
Who all things good provideth:  
I follow Him, I hear His voice,  
In Him, my Lord, I do rejoice:  
Blest am I in His keeping! (35a:1.)

LESSON IV.  
GOLDEN TEXT.

Mark 12:32.—There is one God, and there is none other but He.



JEROBOAM BEFORE THE GOLDEN CALF.

MEMORY VERSE.

The first and great commandment hear:  
Above all else to love and fear  
The living God thou shalt observe;  
And never from His statutes swerve. (25:2.)

LESSON IV.

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT.

**Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**

*What is meant by this?*

We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

BIBLE TEXTS.

Gen. 39:9.—How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?

John 14:21.—He that hath my Commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved by my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

THE KINGDOM DIVIDED, AND JEROBOAM.

King Solomon did not continue faithful to the end. He had taken many heathen women for wives, and when he was old they turned his heart, so that he built altars for the abominable idols of the heathen. And the people murmured because of heavy taxes and burdens. When Solomon was dead, all Israel came together and said to his son Rehoboam: Thy father made our yoke heavy; make thou it lighter, and we will make thee king. Rehoboam refused, and ten tribes chose Jeroboam for king, and only Judah and Benjamin clung to Rehoboam for David's sake. Samaria became the capital of the ten tribes, or the Kingdom of Israel, and Jerusalem the capital of the two tribes, or the Kingdom of Judah. Now, Jeroboam thought thus: If the people go up to Jerusalem to worship the Lord, their hearts will again turn to the house of David. He therefore set up two golden calves, one at Bethel and one at Dan, and the people went and sacrificed to them. The Lord warned him, saying: Thou hast made thyself strange gods, therefore I will cut off thy house. His son became king, but was killed, and the whole family destroyed. 1 Kings 11-14,

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What does our Golden Text say about God?*
2. *What shows that Solomon did not believe this when he became old?*
3. *Why did the people murmur?*
4. *Whom did the ten tribes choose for king?*
5. *What great sin did Jeroboam commit?*
6. *How was he punished?*
7. *What does the First Commandment say that they should do?*
8. *When do you fear God rightly? When I consider God so holy that I do not want to hurt Him with any sin.*
9. *What showed that Joseph feared God? His saying in the first Bible Text.*
10. *Who have the wrong fear of God? The wicked, who fear God simply because He will punish them when they do wrong.*
11. *What does Jesus say about those who love Him? See Bible Text.*
12. *What does Jesus promise?*
13. *What do you mean by saying you trust in your parents?*
14. *Why should you trust God above all things? He alone can and will help in all need and at all times.*
15. *Name some people who trusted in God above all things. Abraham, Joseph, David, Daniel.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read 1 Kings 11-14. Tell what a good king Solomon was, and of the beautiful temple he built for God, and how God blessed him. But his many heathen wives turned his heart away from God when he became old, so that he built altars and temples for heathen idols. Tell how God threatened to punish him, and how he was punished by the ten tribes leaving his son. (5) Point out how foolish Jeroboam was in building the golden calves. He thought that he should win so much thereby, but was severely punished by God. Recall the story of the golden calf in our last lesson. (8) Compare this to children's fear of their parents. Good children are kind and obedient because they do not want to hurt their parents' feelings. The same kind of fear we should have for God. (10) The heathen worship and sacrifice to their gods, because they are afraid that if they do not, their gods will be angry. If it were not for the fear of punishment, there would be a great deal more evil done among us also. (13) Explain trust in God by showing how children must trust in their parents for care and protection. (14) Tell about the care that Jesus promises His sheep in John 10:28. (15) Let pupils explain how these men trusted in God. Apply Memory Verse and explain.



## THE SECOND COMMANDMENT.

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain.

*What is meant by this?*

We should fear and love God, that we may not curse, swear, use witchcraft, lie or deceive by His Name, but call upon His Name in every time of need, and worship Him with prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

## BIBLE TEXTS.

Ps. 106:1.—O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endureth forever.

Ps. 50:15.—Call upon me in the day of trouble.

## MOSES AND PHARAOH.

In lesson one we heard how God sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh. They said to him: Thus saith Jehovah, the God of Israel, Let my people go. Pharaoh answered: Who is Jehovah, that I should hearken unto His voice to let Israel go! I know Him not, and moreover I will not let Israel go.

Moses now performed the wonders that God had given him, but Pharaoh hardened his heart, and would not let the people go. Then God said unto Moses: Take thy rod and smite the waters in the Nile. And Moses did so, and the waters became blood. When this did not help, God sent nine other plagues upon Egypt. The eighth plague was numberless locusts that covered all the land, and ate every green thing, and the ninth was a thick darkness that lasted for three days, but in Goshen there were no locusts and there it was light. The tenth was the worst. God slew all the first-born, from the first-born son of Pharaoh to the first-born of the slave. Pharaoh now urged the Israelites to go. But he soon hardened his heart again and regretted that he had let Israel go. But when he pursued them into the Red Sea, God destroyed his whole army. Ex. 5-14.



## QUESTIONS.

1. *What does the Golden Text say about pride and a haughty spirit?*
2. *What great king was proud and haughty?*
3. *How did he show his haughty spirit to God and Moses?*
4. *How did God punish him for taking His name in vain?*
5. *What does God forbid you to do in the Second Commandment?*
6. *How is God's name taken in vain?*
7. *What is meant by curse? To wish evil, the opposite of bless.*
8. *What is meant by swearing? To confirm something by God's name.*
9. *In what kind of company do children learn to curse and swear?*
10. *What is meant by "witchcraft"? It is to have secret dealings with evil spirits.*
11. *Why is it sin against God's name to lie?*
12. *Who deceives by God's name? He who pretends to be a child of God and is not.*
13. *How does our first Bible Text tell us to use God's name?*
14. *When did Moses and his people call upon God? In the day of trouble, when treated cruelly by Pharaoh.*
15. *In what other way do we use God's name rightly? See Second Commandment and second Bible Text.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Ex. 5-14. Compare the proud, haughty, hard-hearted Pharaoh despising God's name, with the meek, self forgetful, Godfearing Moses, always calling upon God's name, worshipping Him in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Point out how God humbled the proud Pharaoh, so that he had to ask Moses to pray for him, and how God finally crushed him, but richly blessed Moses. (1) "Pride" as used here, means extreme selfishness, and with this feeling usually follows a haughty, despising spirit. (5) Let children give some of the names and attributes of God. Emphasize that because God is great and holy, He wants His name respected and honored. If we love God we will honor His name, just as we honor the name of a person we love. (7) Goliath cursed David by his gods. (8) Point out the bad habit of swearing, what continual swearing leads to, and that it is not "smart" at all for any boy to swear. The devil's name is also used in cursing and swearing. (9) Emphasize the effects of bad company. (11) Lying in all forms is from the devil, and God who is truth itself hates it. Tell how Jacob was punished for lying. (12) Judas is a good example. (15) When we use God's name earnestly and sincerely in worshipping Him in prayer, praise and thanksgiving God is much pleased. This honors His name. Apply and explain Memory Verse.

LESSON V.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Prov. 16:18.—Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.



MOSES AND AARON BEFORE PHARAOH.

MEMORY VERSE.

Take not the name of God in vain,  
And from all blasphemy refrain.  
His name adore with prayer and praise,  
Your heart and voice in worship raise. (25:3.)

LESSON VI.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Gen. 28:16.—Surely the Lord is in this place.



JACOB'S VISION.

MEMORY VERSE.

Remember well the Sabbath day  
To keep it holy, sing and pray,  
And hear the preaching of the Word  
And serve in willing love the Lord. (25:4.)

## LESSON VI.

### THE THIRD COMMANDMENT.

## Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

*What is meant by this?*

We should fear and love God, that we may not despise preaching and His Word; but deem it holy and gladly hear and learn it.

### BIBLE TEXTS.

Luke 11:28.—Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.

Col. 3:16.—Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Ecc. 5:1.—Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear than to give the sacrifice of fools.

### JACOB'S VISION.

Jacob had to leave home after he had cheated his brother Esau. When the sun was set, he lighted upon a certain place and tarried there all night, and he took a stone, and put it under his head, and slept. And he dreamed that a ladder was set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven, and the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood above it, who said: I am the God of Abraham and of Isaac, the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And I will be with thee and bring thee again into this land. When Jacob awoke, he said: Surely the Lord is in this place. This is the house of God, this is the gate of heaven!

And Jacob set up the stone that he had used for a pillow, poured oil upon it, and called the place Bethel, and Jacob made a promise saying: This shall be God's house. The Lord shall be my God, and I will give Him one-tenth of all that He gives me. Gen. 28.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *Who spoke the words in our Golden Text?*
2. *What beautiful dream did Jacob have?*
3. *Who spoke to him?*
4. *What did Jacob call this place? The House of God.*
5. *What is our House of God called?*
6. *Why is the church called House of God? We go there to meet God and to worship Him.*
7. *How shall we therefore consider the church? A very holy place.*
8. *What day especially do we go to church?*
9. *What does the Third Commandment say about this day?*
10. *Who does not keep this day holy?*
11. *Who despises preaching and God's Word? Those who do not read the Word of God or go to church.*
12. *When do we deem God's Word holy? See the Third Commandment.*
13. *Whom does Jesus call blessed in our first Bible Text?*
14. *What does our second Bible Text say about the Word of Christ?*
15. *What does God urge you to do in our third Bible Text?*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Gen. 28. Tell the story of Jacob going on the long journey to his uncle, and how lonesome he must have been to travel alone so far, and to sleep alone in the open field. But God was with him and protected him. Then ask the children to tell the beautiful dream. (6) Tell of the beautiful promise Jacob made to God. We should come to church to hear God speak to us, and then make the same promises of faithfulness and of giving to the Lord as Jacob did. (7) Impress respect for the church building, and the proper conduct during services. (9) "Sabbath" means rest. In the Old Testament the day of rest was Saturday, the day God rested after He was through creating all things. The apostles and early Christians changed the day of rest to the first day of the week in honor of Jesus, who rose from the dead on that day. (10) Emphasize that we also despise this day when we do unnecessary work on Sunday. We need the day for rest both for body and mind and should be thankful that God has shown His love for us by giving us a day of rest. Apply Memory Verse, and show how the Sabbath day is kept holy. (11) Emphasize the duty of church going even for children. Ask for and give common excuses for not going to church, like bad weather, driving, visiting, baseball, football. (12) Bring in something about church services and explain. (13) "Keep" here means to remember and apply in our lives. (15) "Keep" here means to guard against all evil thoughts, so that we come to church eager to hear what God has to say to us.



## THE SECOND TABLE OF THE LAW.

## Love to thy neighbor.

## BIBLE TEXTS.

Matt. 7:12.—All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.

Matt. 22:39.—Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Matt. 16:26.—What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his soul?

## JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS.

There was a great famine in all the lands, but in Egypt there was grain. And Jacob sent ten of his sons to Egypt to buy grain; but he would not let Benjamin go. The brothers came to Joseph, and bowed themselves down before him. They knew him not, but he knew them, and remembered his dreams. They said that they had been twelve brothers; the youngest was at home with his father, and one was no more. But Joseph said: Ye are spies, and he kept them in prison for three days. On the third day he said to them: One of you shall remain in prison; and ye shall fetch your youngest brother to me, that I may see whether ye speak the truth. Then said one to another: We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul and would not hear him. Simeon was kept, and the others went home.

Jacob would not let Benjamin go, but the famine was so great that he had to let him go. The brothers went to Egypt and stood before Joseph. When he saw Benjamin he said: God be gracious to thee, my son, and he went out and wept. Joseph would retain Benjamin as his slave; but Judah said: Let me remain in his stead, for if we have not him with us, our father will die from grief.

Then Joseph could not restrain himself any longer, but said: I am Joseph. Doth my father yet live? His brothers could not answer him for fear; but Joseph spoke kindly to them, kissed them all, and wept on Benjamin's neck. Afterwards he said: Make haste, and go home, and tell my old father that I am lord of all Egypt, and bring him hither. Gen. 37; 39; 41-46.



## QUESTIONS.

1. *Who spoke the words in our Golden Text?*
2. *What evil had Joseph's brothers done to him?*
3. *How should they have treated their brother?*
4. *What does Jesus say in our first Bible Text that we shall do to others?*
5. *How did Joseph treat his brothers later when they came to Egypt?*
6. *What could he have done to them?*
7. *Why did he put them into prison? To try them.*
8. *What did they say to one another?*
9. *What did Joseph finally do?*
10. *What does he teach us to do?*
11. *How much does Jesus say that we are to love our neighbor?*  
*See Bible Text.*
12. *How will we then treat him?*
13. *What in ourselves should we love and care most for?*
14. *What does Jesus say about the value of our soul? See Bible Text.*
15. *How can you lose your soul? By becoming too interested in the things of the world, and neglecting the care of my soul.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Gen. 37; 39; 41-46. Tell very briefly how Joseph at the age of seventeen was sold by his brothers, how he was cast into prison, and interpreted dreams, and how he became lord of all Egypt, at the age of thirty. (4) Emphasize the opposite: do not do to others what you do not want them to do to you. (8) Point out that their conscience was bothering them, and how hard it is to get away from our conscience when we have done wrong. (10) This is the central thought in the lesson, Be kind even to those who have wronged us. (11) The last seven Commandments speak of our relation to our neighbor, and if we love him rightly, we will keep all these Commandments. Emphasize how hard it is to love our neighbor as we ought to. Our sinful nature is so selfish and envious that it will not show the right love to its neighbor. Emphasize how we need to ask God daily to give us the right kind of love for our neighbor. This thought is beautifully expressed in our Memory Verse. (14) Jesus has purchased our soul, so He knows how much it is worth. He considers one soul worth more than the whole world. This should also lead us to be interested in the care and salvation of the souls of others, when they are so precious. (15) Emphasize the many temptations to become interested in the world, and to forget our soul.

LESSON VII.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Gen. 50:20.—Ye thought evil against me, but God meant it unto good.



JOSEPH TELLING HIS DREAM.

MEMORY VERSE.

My Church! my Church! my dear old Church!  
My fathers' and my own!  
On prophets and apostles built,  
And Christ the Cornerstone!  
All else beside, by storm or tide,  
May yet be overthrown!  
But not my Church, my dear old Church,  
My fathers' and my own! (132a:1.)

LESSON VIII.

GOLDEN TEXT.

1 Sam. 2:26.—And the child Samuel grew in favor, both with God and men.



SAMUEL COMES TO ELI.

MEMORY VERSE.

Thy father and thy mother dear  
Thou honor, love and gently hear.  
In need their help and comfort be,  
That it may here be well with thee. (25:5.)

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT.

Honor thy father and thy mother, that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

*What is meant by this?*

We should fear and love God, that we may not despise our parents and superiors, nor provoke them to anger; but honor, serve, obey, love, and esteem them.

BIBLE TEXTS.

Eph. 6:1.—Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Prov. 17:25.—A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.

ELI AND SAMUEL.

Eli was high-priest and judge. He had two sons who were exceedingly wicked; but he did not restrain them. The boy Samuel was brought up by Eli and slept in the Tabernacle of the Lord. One night the Lord called Samuel, and Samuel, who did not yet know the Lord, ran to Eli; but Eli answered: I did not call thee, lie down again. The Lord called yet two times to Samuel, and he ran each time to Eli. The high-priest now perceived that it was the Lord who called Samuel, and said to him: If He call thee again, answer, Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth. The Lord called again and said: Because Eli does not punish his wicked sons, I will send destruction upon him and upon his house.

There was war with the Philistines, and the Israelites were defeated. So they brought the ark to the camp; but they were again routed, and the ark was captured by the Philistines. Eli was at that time 98 years old. He was seated in a chair and looked over the road, for he was anxious for the ark of God. One who had fled from the battle brought this message: Israel is defeated, thy sons are fallen, and God's ark is taken. When he heard about the ark of God, he fell backwards, broke his neck, and died. 1 Sam. 1 and 3.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What is said about the boy Samuel in the Golden Text?*
2. *Why was he loved by everybody?*
3. *What does God ask of you in the first Bible Text?*
4. *What Commandment do you then keep?*
5. *What does the Fourth Commandment tell you to do?*
6. *What is meant by superiors? All whom God has placed over us, such as teachers, masters, officers.*
7. *What does God promise those who are obedient?*
8. *What does the Fourth Commandment say you should not do?*
9. *What does our Bible Text say about a foolish son?*
10. *What is said about Eli's sons?*
11. *Wherein did Eli do wrong? In not punishing his sons.*
12. *How did God punish Eli and his sons?*
13. *How can you bring grief and bitterness to your parents?*
14. *Why do they not deserve this?*
15. *What will God do to wicked children?*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read 1 Sam. 1 and 3. Tell how Samuel's mother brought her son to the high priest Eli to give him to the Lord to serve Him. Tell how he helped Eli about the temple, and was always kind and obedient. Therefore the beautiful words in the Golden Text are spoken of him. (5) God has placed our parents and superiors over us. They act in His place and He wants us to respect them as such. We honor them by serving, obeying, loving and esteeming them. And because they care for us and protect us, we should show our appreciation by honoring them. The Memory Verse can be applied here for emphasis. (6) Emphasize obedience to teachers and officers, even if we do not like them. (7) Point out the blessing and joy that comes to all of whom the Golden Text is true. Children who are kind and obedient will win the admiration of men, and God will show His favor by blessing them in many ways. (10) Contrast the wicked, disobedient sons of Eli with Samuel. (11) Eli scolded his sons, but did not punish them. Show that it is the duty of the parents to their children to punish them when wicked, and that children never should consider their parents unjust because they are strict in their discipline. (12) It is far better that parents punish disobedient children, than that God shall have to punish both parents and children. Parents are sorely punished when their children are wicked. (13) Tell about Joseph's brothers, Absalom and the prodigal son. (15) Wicked children get into trouble, and lose the love and respect of all people.



LESSON 1X.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT.

**Thou shalt not kill.**

*What is meant by this?*

We should fear and love God, that we may not hurt nor harm our neighbor in his body; but help and befriend him in every bodily need.

BIBLE TEXTS.

1 John 3:15.—Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer.

Matt. 5:7.—Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

**CAIN AND ABEL.**

Adam and Eve had two sons; the first was called Cain and the second Abel. Cain tilled the ground, and Abel kept sheep. Once they both brought their offerings to the Lord. Cain brought of the fruit of the ground, and Abel of the best of his flock. God looked kindly on Abel and his offering; but on Cain and his offering he did not look kindly. Then Cain was very wroth, and he turned his eyes to the ground. And God said unto him: Why turnest thou thine eyes to the ground? Is it not so that if thou doest well, thou canst freely look upwards, and if thou doest not well, sin watches at the door, and its desire shall be unto thee, but thou shalt rule over it. Still Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him, when they were in the field. And the Lord asked Cain: Where is thy brother? Cain answered: I know not; am I my brother's keeper? Then the Lord said, Thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. Therefore shalt thou be cursed, and a fugitive and a wanderer shalt thou be in the earth. And Cain went and dwelt on the east of Eden. His descendants were inventive and skilful, they invented harps and flutes and forged weapons; but they did also that which was evil in the eyes of the Lord. Gen. 4:1-16.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What does God tell you to put away according to the Golden Text?*
2. *Why put away these things? They are sins against the Fifth Commandment.*
3. *What did these things lead Cain to do?*
4. *Give a Bible Text to prove that Cain was a murderer even before he killed his brother.*
5. *If you are bitter and angry and speak evil, what does God call you?*
6. *How can any one harm his neighbor's soul? By urging him to do wrong, or setting him bad examples.*
7. *What is said about Cain's eyes when he was angry?*
8. *What did God say to him?*
9. *How does God want you to look? Kind, pleasant, cheerful.*
10. *When alone can you look and be truly cheerful? When I do God's will.*
11. *What are you to do according to the Fifth Commandment?*
12. *How can you help your neighbor?*
13. *Why is it wrong to refuse to help your neighbor?*
14. *Whom does Jesus call blessed in our Bible Text and why?*
15. *Who will show them mercy? God, and people whom they show mercy will show mercy in return.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Gen. 4:1-16. (2) "Hurt" means to injure or wound the body of our neighbor or take his life. "Harm" means to offend and pain, to cause anger and grief, make life disagreeable for our neighbor. (3) Point out that jealousy and hatred lead to scolding, cursing and other injurious conduct toward our neighbor. (4) Make clear that hatred is wishing evil and hoping evil, and is the cause of all murder. Illustrations: Esau, Saul, Jezebel, the Pharisees. (5) Bitterness, anger and evil speaking cannot be found in a heart that loves God and his neighbor. Emphasize how bitter words may cause wounds that perhaps never can be healed. The Memory Verse should be recited here for emphasis. (6) Parents can harm the souls of their children by setting them bad examples, as not serving God, not going to church. (7) Jealousy and hatred always make one feel unhappy. (8) We all become angry at times, but God wants us to rule over sin, so that we can pardon and forget before it leads to hatred. (10) Emphasize again what God said to Cain. (12) Review briefly lesson VII to illustrate. (13) We can not say as Cain said, "I am not my brother's keeper." We owe kindness and love to everybody. (14) To be merciful is to help and befriend. To be a friend in need is to be a friend indeed. (15) Emphasize what pleasure we derive ourselves by being good to others, and how people love and praise those who are kind-hearted.

LESSON IX.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Eph. 4:31.—Let all bitterness and anger and evil speaking be put away.



CAIN AND ABEL SACRIFICING.

MEMORY VERSE.

Thou shalt not kill, nor lift thy arm  
To do thy neighbor any harm.  
Revenge and hatred quell, and pray  
For them who curse and spite thy way. (25:6.)

LESSON X.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Gen. 39:9.—How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?



JOSEPH TAKEN TO PRISON.

MEMORY VERSE.

The marriage vow must sacred be,  
All carnal lust and longing flee!  
The pure in heart and chaste in mind  
Shall see the Lord and blessing find. (25:7.)

LESSON X.

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT.

**Thou shalt not commit adultery.**

*What is meant by this?*

We should fear and love God, that we may live chaste and pure in words and deeds, and husband and wife each love and honor the other.

BIBLE TEXTS.

Matt. 5:8.—Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Ps. 51:10.—Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Matt. 26:41.—Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.

**JOSEPH IS THROWN INTO PRISON.**

Joseph was sold by his brothers to some merchants. These merchants brought Joseph to Egypt and sold him to Potiphar, the captain of the life-guard of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. God was with Joseph, and made him to prosper, and Potiphar made him overseer over his house. But Potiphar's wife fell in love with Joseph and wanted him to become her husband. Joseph knew this would be a great sin and said: How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God? She then became very angry at Joseph and belied and slandered him to her husband. Potiphar believed his wife, and cast Joseph into prison.

God was with Joseph and gave him favor with the keeper of the prison, and he set him over the other prisoners, Gen. 39.



## QUESTIONS.

1. *Who spoke the words in the Golden Text?*
2. *To whom did he speak them?*
3. *What kind of a woman was she? Very wicked.*
4. *What Commandment did she sin against?*
5. *What does the Sixth Commandment say about husband and wife?*
6. *Whom did Potiphar's wife love and honor more than her husband?*
7. *How did Joseph keep the Sixth Commandment? He was chaste and pure in word and deed.*
8. *How can you keep the Sixth Commandment? Think and speak and do only that which is clean and pure.*
9. *What does Jesus say about the pure in heart? See Bible Text.*
10. *How was Joseph blessed even when thrown into prison? The Lord was with him.*
11. *For what do you ask in our next Bible Text?*
12. *What will this guard you against? Everything indecent.*
13. *Who tempts you to evil? My own wicked nature and bad companions.*
14. *To what then does Jesus exhort you in the last Bible Text?*
15. *When tempted to evil, what should you say? I will say what Joseph said.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Gen. 39. Ask how Joseph came to be in Egypt, Joseph was an honest, Godfearing young man. God blessed him in everything he did, and he was soon trusted and liked by everybody. (5) Husband and wife are to live together in mutual love and faithfulness till separated by death. Only when they love and honor each other can they be happy. The Memory Verse can be applied here for emphasis. (6) Potiphar's wife loved Joseph, but her love became impure; she turned unfaithful to Potiphar and begged Joseph to become her husband. (7) Joseph knew that this would be wrong both against her and her husband and against God, therefore he spoke the beautiful words in our Golden Text. (8) Our heart should be free from impure thoughts and desires. They poison the soul, and lead to further sin in word and deed. We must avoid filthy words, vile stories and shameful jests. Such things are not smart, but disgraceful. We must always be careful to avoid every act which would bring us to blush for shame, if our parents should find out. Especially should we remember that God sees everything. (10) Wicked people may cause us great trouble for not yielding to their temptations, but God shall surely be with us, and lead us to glory if we obey Him. (14) Because our heart is wicked by nature, we need constantly to be on guard, and pray for God's help to remain pure.

## THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT.

## Thou shalt not steal.

*What is meant by this?*

We should fear and love God, that we may not take our neighbor's money or property, nor get it by false wares or false dealing; but help him to improve and protect his property and living.

## BIBLE TEXTS.

1 Thess. 4:6.—No man go beyond or defraud his brother in any matter.

1 Cor. 6:10.—Neither thieves nor extortioners shall inherit the Kingdom of God.

Prov. 19:17.—He that hath pity on the poor, lendeth unto the Lord.

## ESAU AND JACOB.

Isaac and Rebekah had two sons. The first-born was hairy all over, and was called Esau, and the second was called Jacob. Once Jacob had boiled pottage, and Esau came faint in from the field. Esau said: Give me, I pray thee, the pottage. Jacob answered: Sell me first thy birthright. So he sold his birthright to Jacob for the pottage of lentils.

When Isaac was old and nearly blind, he said one day to Esau: Take thy quiver and thy bow, go out to the field and take me venison, and make me savory food, that I may eat thereof and bless thee, before I die. Rebekah, who heard this, persuaded Jacob to go to the father in Esau's stead and obtain the blessing. She killed two kids of the goats and made savory food, and put the skins upon Jacob's hands and neck, and he came to his father and asked for the blessing. Isaac said: How is it that thou found it so quickly, my son? Jacob answered: The Lord thy God sent me good speed. And he felt him, and said: The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau. And he ate of Jacob's food, and blessed him.

Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing, and Jacob had to flee to his uncle Laban. Gen. 25-27.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *Who spoke the sad words in our Golden Text?*
2. *Who had cheated Esau twice?*
3. *How did he cheat Esau of his birthright?*
4. *How did he cheat him of the blessing?*
5. *What Commandment did Jacob sin against?*
6. *What is meant by false ware?*
7. *Give an example of false dealing.*
8. *What does God forbid in the first Bible Text?*
9. *Why have you no right to steal? God has given our neighbor what he lawfully has, and He wants him to have it.*
10. *From whom is the thief then actually stealing? From God.*
11. *What does God say about punishment? See Bible Text.*
12. *How was Jacob punished?*
13. *What does the Seventh Commandment ask you to do for your neighbor?*
14. *What does our Bible Text say about pitying the poor?*
15. *What besides poor people shall we give to? Church, Missions.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Gen. 25:20-34 and 27. Esau and Jacob were twins, but Esau was first-born, and the custom was that the oldest son inherited all his father's property. Rebekah loved Jacob most, and she wanted Jacob to have the property. The father also blessed the son who was to inherit him. Therefore after Rebekah and Jacob had cheated Esau of his inheritance, they also decided to get the blessing away from him. God had promised Jacob the birthright and blessing and if Rebekah and Jacob had trusted in the Lord as they should, they would not have cheated Esau. If they only had waited, God would have fulfilled His promises. (6) "Ware" means anything bought or sold. "False ware" means impure, poor or bad ware sold or traded as good. When a dealer puts water into milk and sells it for good milk, it becomes a false ware. (8) "Defraud" means the same as false dealing or cheating. Apply the Bible Text to Jacob. (11) "Extortioners" means those who overcharge. Those who cheat and steal are punished with a bad conscience and when found out lose the respect of people, and are put into jail. (12) Jacob and his mother had to part, never to meet again. Jacob was in turn cheated by his uncle. Explain why "honesty is the best policy." (14) Jesus says that those who give to the poor give to Him. Tell about Boas. (15) Point out our duty to give to church, missions and charity. The Memory Verse should be applied here for emphasis.

LESSON XI.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Gen. 27:36.—He took away my birthright, and behold, now he hath taken away my blessing.



ISAAC BLESSING JACOB.

MEMORY VERSE.

Thou shalt not steal, nor cheat for gain;  
But help thy brother to retain  
His loan from God, his livelihood.  
Be well content with daily food. (25:8.)

LESSON XII.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Daniel 6:4.—The presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom, but they could not find any fault, for he was faithful.



DANIEL IN LIONS' DEN.

MEMORY VERSE.

False witness and all falsehood dread!  
Betray no one, nor slander spread;  
But cover with a lowly mind  
The frailties you in others find. (25:9.)



## THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT.

**Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.**

*What is meant by this?*

We should fear and love God, that we may not belie, betray, slander nor defame our neighbor; but excuse him, speak well of him and put the best construction on all he does.

## BIBLE TEXTS.

Matt. 12:36.—But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof on the day of judgment.

Eph. 4:25.—Putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor.

## DANIEL.

Daniel was the great prophet that God sent to comfort His people when they were taken to Babylon. Darius, king of Babylon, set 120 princes over his kingdom, and over them three presidents, of whom Daniel was first. The king was so pleased with Daniel that he made him the chief ruler over his whole kingdom. The princes and presidents became jealous of Daniel and tried to find fault with his governing. But they could find no fault, because Daniel was faithful and true.

Then they persuaded the king to pass a decree that if any one prayed to any god except the king, for thirty days, he should be thrown into the den of lions. Daniel heard of the decree, but he prayed to God three times a day on his knees before the open window, as he had done before. Daniel was now thrown into the den of lions, but the Lord sent His angel who shut the mouths of the lions. The next day Daniel was pulled up unhurt from the den, and the men who had accused him were cast into it. They did not even reach the bottom of the den before they were seized and killed by the lions. Daniel 6.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What does our Golden Text say about the presidents and princes?*
2. *Why were they trying to find fault?*
3. *When they could find no fault, what did they do?*
4. *Because Daniel was faithful to God, what did they do to him?*
5. *How did God prove faithful to him?*
6. *What was done to those who accused Daniel?*
7. *What Commandment did these men sin against?*
8. *What is meant by betraying? To reveal secrets or otherwise prove untrue as a friend.*
9. *What is meant by slander? Saying bad things or lying about a person.*
10. *Why is it wrong to tell lies?*
11. *Why should you be very careful about what you say? See first Bible Text.*
12. *What does God urge you to do in the second Bible Text?*
13. *What does the Eighth Commandment say that you should do?*
14. *What is meant by excuse? Taking the part of one who is slandered.*
15. *What should we do if someone slanders us? Forgive him, but we have the right to correct him.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Daniel 6. Daniel was placed by king Darius as the chief ruler in Babylon over all the princes and presidents. These became jealous of Daniel, and tried every way possible to find some fault with his government, as spoken of in our Golden Text. Therefore they planned what our Bible Story tells. (1) Trying to find fault with or making fun of people, shows an unkind heart. (2) Point out that jealousy is very often the cause of ill speaking. (4) Note that Daniel could have said his prayers in secret, but he prayed openly as before. (5) If we put our trust in God and do not deny Him, He will prove faithful to us. (7) "Belie" means to lie about someone. "Defame" is to destroy one's good fame or reputation. (8) Tell about Judas. Telling something that we know about others, or giving away a secret, is betraying. (9) Tell how slander spoils our neighbor's good name, and gives him trouble. Ask how Joseph, Naboth and Jesus were slandered and defamed. (11) Idle words are words spoken thoughtlessly or carelessly and which may cause our neighbor harm. (14) Point out how natural it is for us to love to listen to gossip, and how hard it is to excuse it, but that this is the only way to stop gossip. Apply Memory Verse and explain.

## THE NINTH COMMANDMENT.

**Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.**

*What is meant by this?*

We should fear and love God, that we may not craftily seek to gain our neighbor's inheritance or home, nor get it by a show of right; but help and serve him in keeping it.

## BIBLE TEXTS.

1 Sam 16:7.—The Lord looketh on the heart.

Matt. 5:48.—Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father who is in heaven is perfect.

## AHAB AND JEZEBEL.

The worst of all kings in Israel was Ahab. He married the wicked Jezebel, daughter of the King of Sidon, and built a temple for the idol Baal. The prophet Elijah therefore foretold great punishments upon Ahab and his people.

Naboth had a vineyard that King Ahab wished to buy, because it lay close up to his palace. When Naboth would not sell his inheritance, because it was against the law of Moses, Ahab was sad, went to bed and would not eat. Jezebel said: Arise, eat and be merry, I will give thee the vineyard. She bade the judges procure witnesses to testify that Naboth had blasphemed God and the king. Naboth was stoned, and Ahab went to take possession of the vineyard. The Lord sent Elijah to him in the vineyard to say: There, where the dogs licked the blood of Naboth, shall they also lick thy blood, and dogs shall eat Jezebel. Ahab fell in a battle, and his blood flowed into the war-chariot, and when it was washed in Samaria, dogs came and licked the blood. Jezebel was thrown out from a window, and her body was eaten by dogs. 1 Kings 21.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *Why was Ahab displeased?*
2. *Who promised to help Ahab get the inheritance?*
3. *Why did they sin against the Ninth Commandment? They coveted their neighbor's inheritance.*
4. *What did Jezebel do to craftily get her neighbor's inheritance?*
5. *Why did she want Naboth stoned? To get a show of right to his inheritance.*
6. *Who met Ahab when he went to take the inheritance?*
7. *What did Elijah tell him?*
8. *What other Commandments did they sin against in lying about and stoning Naboth?*
9. *What led them to sin against all these Commandments? Evil desires, coveting their neighbor's property.*
10. *Where are the evil desires found?*
11. *What does our Bible Text say that God looks at?*
12. *What does Jesus tell you to be in the second Bible Text?*
13. *What kind of a heart must you have to be perfect?*
14. *Who alone can give you a clean heart?*
15. *What does the Ninth Commandment say you should do?*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read 1 Kings 21. Naboth had a vineyard near the palace of King Ahab. Ahab offered to either trade for or buy his vineyard, but Naboth had no right to sell it, because he had inherited it. Point out how children often act like Ahab, when they can not get what they want. (3) "Covet" is a sinful craving for what belongs to others. We have a right to wish for things like those others have, but not to wish for their things. Ahab had a right to trade for or buy Naboth's vineyard, but when he found out that Naboth could not sell he should have been satisfied. (5) If a man was stoned for blaspheming God, his property went to the king. (7) Ahab dreaded to meet Elijah, because he had warned him against his sins so many times. (11) God sees every evil thought and desire in our heart, and it is these evil desires that He forbids and condemns in the Ninth Commandment. It is the evil desires that lead to evil words and deeds, and the more God can help us suppress the evil desires, the more perfect we will become. (13) Emphasize that if our heart is clean, we will never do our neighbor any harm. (14) It should be our desire and prayer to be perfect, not to win any grace from God, but as an expression of love to God and our neighbor. (15) Ask and point out different ways whereby we can help and serve our neighbor in keeping his property. For further emphasis let some one give the Memory Verse.

LESSON XIII.

GOLDEN TEXT.

1 Kings 21:4.—Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased, went to bed, and would not eat.



JEZEBEL TEMPTS AHAB.

MEMORY VERSE.

Thou shalt not covet in thy heart  
Thy neighbor's house in whole or part,  
But him thy helpful service give,  
That he and his with thee may live. (25:10.)



LESSON XIV.

GOLDEN TEXT.

2 Sam. 15:6.—Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel from his father.



ABSALOM CAUGHT IN THE TREE.

MEMORY VERSE.

We look into the Law and see  
The sinful state of you and me.  
In patience we God implore  
For grace and mercy evermore. (25:12.)

## THE TENTH COMMANDMENT.

**Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is his.**

*What is meant by this?*

We should fear and love God, that we may not estrange, force or entice away from our neighbor his wife, servants or cattle; but urge them to stay and do their duty.

## BIBLE TEXTS.

Lev. 19:2.—Ye shall be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

1 Tim. 6:6.—But godliness with contentment is great gain.

## ABSALOM.

Absalom, a son of David, was the comeliest man in Israel. There was no blemish on him from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Although his father loved him greatly, he desired to be king in his father's stead. He placed himself by the road, and when any one came and would bow down before him, he embraced him and kissed him, and thus stole the heart of Israel from his father.

He conspired with David's counsellor, and came with an army against Jerusalem, so David was forced to flee for his son. David gathered an army, and set Joab over it, and said to him: Deal gently with the young man! There was a great battle in a forest, Absalom was compelled to flee, and riding under an oak, his head was caught in its boughs. The mule on which he rode ran away, and he was hanging between heaven and earth. Joab ran and thrust three javelins through his heart. When David heard of this he wept and lamented: O Absalom, my son, would I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son! When David after some time died, Solomon, the son of Bathsheba, became king. 2 Sam. 15-18.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What does the Golden Text say about Absalom?*
2. *What does this mean? He estranged and enticed away the people from his father.*
3. *What Commandment did he thereby sin against?*
4. *What should he rather have done according to the Tenth Commandment?*
5. *How was he punished?*
6. *What other Commandments did Absalom sin against? Explain.*
7. *What led him to sin against so many Commandments? The evil desires of his heart.*
8. *How could he have prevented this? By asking God to cleanse his heart of evil desires.*
9. *What led Cain, Jacob, Ahab and Jezebel and the enemies of Daniel to act as they did? The evil desires in their heart.*
10. *What is then the cause of all sinful deeds?*
11. *What does the Tenth Commandment really condemn? All sinful desires in the heart.*
12. *What does God want us to be according to our first Bible Text?*
13. *How can we become holy?*
14. *What does our Bible Text say about contentment?*
15. *What does the Tenth Commandment ask you to do?*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read 2 Sam. 15-18. Absalom was praised above all men in Israel for his beauty. His father loved him and was very kind to him. But Absalom did not appreciate his father's kindness, but began to plan how he could become king himself in his father's place. By deceit, flattery and promises, he succeeded in doing what our Golden Text says. (3) If Absalom had loved his father, he would have assisted him in his difficult work, and urged all people to do the same. (6) Absalom sinned against the last Seven Commandments, and of course that includes the first three also. He was disobedient to his father, caused thousands of people to be killed, disgraced his father's household, deceived, cheated and stole from his father, slandered him and coveted his kingdom and all that he had. (7) The sinful coveting in his heart was the cause of all his sins. (9) Recall the persons spoken of in the former lessons, and note that sinful coveting was the cause of their wicked sins. (10) The sinful desires of the heart are the cause of all sinful actions, and it is these sinful desires that the Tenth Commandment condemns. (11) Apply Memory Verse as answer to this question. (14) "Contentment" means to be satisfied with what God gives us.

## WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT ALL THESE COMMANDMENTS? (1). PUNISHMENT.

I, the Lord thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my Commandments.

## BIBLE TEXTS.

Rom. 6:23.—The wages of sin is death.

Ps. 51:5.—Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

## THE OVERTHROW OF THE KINGDOMS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH.

The kings and the people of Israel continued to worship strange gods, and would not listen to the prophets of the Lord. So the punishment had to come. The king of Assyria, the powerful Shalmaneser, put Hoshea, the last king, in chains, and his successor took Samaria and carried the people to Assyria, 722 years before Christ. One of the later kings sent heathen from his countries to dwell in the land. These were called Samaritans, and learned more and more to know Jehovah; but the inhabitants of Judah and Benjamin would not acknowledge them as right brethren, and there was bitter enmity between the Samaritans and the Jews.

The people of Judah fell away from the Lord also. King Manasseh sacrificed his own children to the idols, and the punishment had to come upon the kingdom of Judah also. The king of Babylon, the mighty Nebuchadnezzar, took Jerusalem, burned the temple and the city, and tore down the walls. Zedekiah, the last king, was forced to look upon the slaying of his own children, then his eyes were put out, and he was placed in chains and together with the people brought to Babylon in captivity 588 years before the birth of Christ. 2 Kings 17 and 25.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What does the Golden Text say about the people of God?*
2. *What does God threaten in our Catechism lesson?*
3. *With what did God visit His people?*
4. *Whom did He send to punish the kingdom of Israel?*
5. *Where did this king take the people?*
6. *Whom did God send to punish the kingdom of Judah?*
7. *Where were these people taken?*
8. *How does our first Bible Text apply to these people?*
9. *Why must God punish sin? He is holy and can not excuse sin.*
10. *How does God punish sin? Both in body and soul, both in time and eternity.*
11. *How far does God threaten to punish sin? See the Catechism lesson.*
12. *What sin does our second Bible Text refer to? The in-born inclination to do evil, inherited from our parents.*
13. *Because your heart is wicked what do you find it very easy to do?*
14. *What do you, therefore, find hard to do?*
15. *How can we escape God's punishment? By asking God to pardon our sins, and give us strength to keep His Commandments.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read 2 Kings 17:1-24; 25:1-15. The children of Israel turned their hearts more and more away from God to serve heathen idols and to live in the sins of the heathen. God sent prophets to warn them, but they hardened their hearts, and went into worse sins. Therefore God had to do as we are told in the Golden Text. The same became true of the kingdom of Judah. Therefore God had to punish these people likewise. (8) Recall the people spoken of in the previous lessons, and how they were punished for their sins. (9) Even laws that we sinful people make, demand punishment if they are broken, why should not God's holy law demand it? This is also emphasized in our Memory Verse. Apply it. (10) Emphasize that sin is its own punishment. No one can sin and remain in Paradise today more than Adam or Eve could. (11) Innocent children must suffer for the sins of their parents. When the Jews were punished, their children suffered also. Sickness, shame and poverty come upon the children of wicked parents. (12) This sin is called original sin, and is the root and stem from which all other sins grow. (13) On account of this inherited weakness, we find it very hard to do what is right, but exceedingly easy to do what is wrong. (15) Because of our sinful heart, we sin much every day and deserve nothing but punishment. But if we ask forgiveness in Jesus' name, God must pardon us, because Jesus has suffered punishment in our place.



LESSON XV.

GOLDEN TEXT.

2 Kings 17:16-18.—The people left all the Commandments of the Lord their God, therefore He was very angry, and removed them out of His sight.



THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM.

MEMORY VERSE.

I am thy Lord, a jealous God,  
Iniquity shall taste my rod.  
The just who love and fear my law  
A thousand times my love shall know. (25:11.)

LESSON XVI.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Jer. 31:34.—I will forgive their iniquity, I will remember their sins no more.



THE RETURN TO JERUSALEM.

MEMORY VERSE.

When sinners see their lost condition,  
And feel the pressing load of sin,  
And Jesus cometh on His mission  
To heal the sin-sick heart within,  
All grief must flee before His grace,  
And joy divine will take its place. (79:1.)

## WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT ALL THESE COMMANDMENTS? (2). BLESSING.

God threatens to punish all who transgress these Commandments; therefore we should fear His wrath, and do nothing against such Commandments. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these Commandments; therefore we should love and trust Him and gladly do according to His Commandments.

### BIBLE TEXTS.

1 Tim. 4:8.—Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

Rom. 8:28.—We know that all things work together for good to them that love God.

## THE RETURN FROM BABYLON.

The sins of the Jews were great, and their punishment was heavy. Yet the Lord left them not without consolation. From the prophecies of the prophet Jeremiah they knew that when 70 years were passed, the Lord would have compassion on them and bring them back to the land of their fathers. And the Lord sent two great prophets, Ezekiel and Daniel, to console and strengthen them.

Cyrus, king of Persia, took Babylon, and permitted the Jews to return to the land of their fathers. He gave them back all the vessels of gold and silver from the temple that had been carried away by Nebuchadnezzar. The 70 years were then at an end. Those who went away were 50,000. Zerubbabel, a chief of the house of David, led them to Jerusalem. In the second year after their return they began to build a new temple on Mount Moriah, where the temple of Solomon had stood. The Samaritans wished to build the temple with them; but the Jews would not permit it, as they did not regard them as right brethren. The Samaritans therefore hindered the work for many years. But then the prophets Haggai and Zechariah arose and encouraged the people, and the temple was finished. Ezra 1.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What does God promise in the Golden Text?*
2. *To whom does He promise this? To those who repent.*
3. *What effect did the Babylon Captivity have on the Jews?*  
*They repented, and never again served heathen idols.*
4. *What prophets did God give them in Babylon to console them?*
5. *How were they saved from Babylon?*
6. *Who led them back?*
7. *What did they rebuild?*
8. *What prophets encouraged them?*
9. *Name some men blessed by God. Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Daniel.*
10. *Why were these men blessed?*
11. *Who were blessed on account of them? Their people for many generations.*
12. *Whom does God promise grace and every blessing?*
13. *What should you therefore do?*
14. *Why does our first Bible Text say this is profitable?*
15. *Give another Bible Text to prove this.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Ezra 1. The prophet Jeremiah had prophesied that the people of Judah would be permitted to return home after 70 years if they repented. When Cyrus conquered Babylon, God put into his mind to rebuild the temple of Jerusalem. As many as desired were therefore urged to go back and rebuild the temple, and those who remained behind were to help with money. (11) Recall some of the promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (12) Make clear that we do not deserve God's grace. Our best works are mixed with sin, and we deserve nothing but punishment. (13) We should try to keep God's Commandments, not because we are afraid of punishment, but because we, like Joseph, fear God and will not hurt Him with any sin. (14) Emphasize that God richly blesses those who serve Him. He is a glorious Master to serve. He is almighty and can shower all the blessings He desires upon us. To serve sin and the devil brings slavery, sorrow and death. (15) All things, even adversity, work to the good of those who serve God. He is under obligation to care for His children, because of His many promises to them. Let someone recite the Memory Verse. Emphasize that the greatest blessing God has bestowed upon us was the gift of His Son Jesus Christ.

## PART II. THE CREED.

### LESSON XVII.

#### THE TRIUNE GOD.

##### BIBLE TEXTS.

Deut. 6:4.—Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one God.

John 14:6.—No man cometh unto the Father but by me.

2 Cor. 13:14.—The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all.

#### ELIJAH AND THE PRIESTS OF BAAL.

The worst of all kings in Israel was Ahab. He married the wicked Jezebel, daughter of the king of Sidon, and built a temple for the idol Baal. The prophet Elijah foretold as a punishment a drought which lasted for three years, and the land thirsted for rain. Meanwhile Elijah dwelt with a poor widow in the city of Zarephtha, and the meal in her jar was not consumed, and the cruse of oil failed not, and when her son died, Elijah prayed to the Lord, and the soul of the child came into him again.

When the three years were ended, Elijah went at the Lord's command unto Ahab and bade him call the priests of Baal together on Mount Carmel. The priests of Baal sacrificed an ox and called upon their god the whole day; but he answered not. Elijah said: Cry a little louder! Your god may be musing or perhaps he sleeps! At evening Elijah sacrificed an ox and prayed: O Lord, let it be known this day that Thou art God in Israel, and that I am Thy servant! Then there came fire from heaven and consumed his sacrifice. Then the people cried: The Lord, He is the God; The Lord, He is the God. And they took the priests of Baal and slew them. The heaven now grew black, and there was great rain. Jezebel now sought the life of Elijah, but he fled to the wilderness and wished that he might die, because Israel had broken the covenant with the Lord. But the Lord said: Return, there are yet 7,000 who have not bowed the knee unto Baal. 1 Kings 18.



## QUESTIONS.

1. *To whom did Elijah pray in our Golden Text?*
2. *What god did most of the people worship at this time?*
3. *How had God punished them for this?*
4. *What agreement did Elijah make with the people to prove who was the true God?*
5. *How long did the priests of Baal pray to Baal for fire?*
6. *How did Elijah mock them?*
7. *How did God prove that He was the true God?*
8. *What did the people now say and what did they do to the priests of Baal?*
9. *Wherein does God most clearly prove Who He is?*
10. *What does He say in our first Bible Text?*
11. *In what Commandment does God emphasize the same?*
12. *In what three persons does this one God reveal Himself?*
13. *What two persons are mentioned in our second Bible Text?*
14. *Give a Bible Text where all three persons are mentioned.*
15. *On what occasions were all three persons revealed? At the baptism of Jesus.*

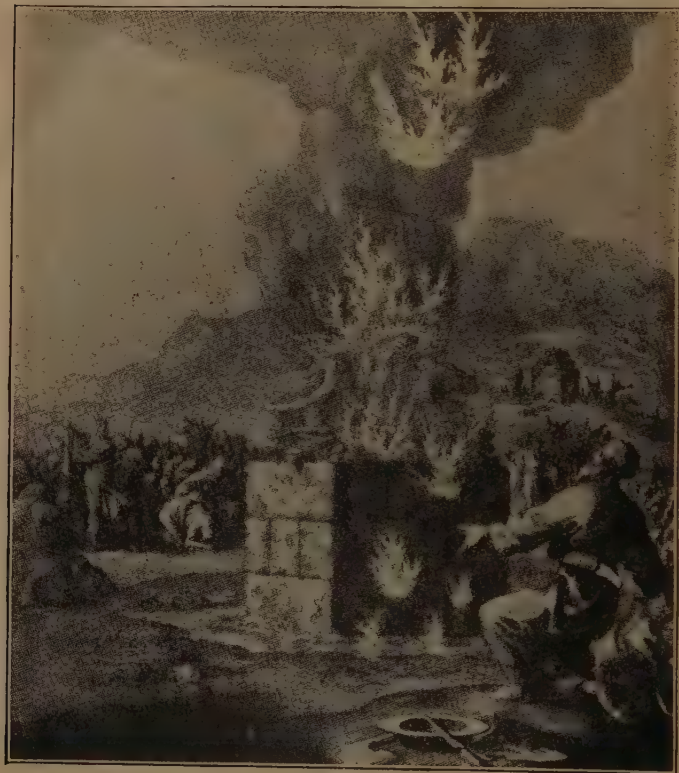
## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read 1 Kings 18. Tell about king Ahab and his wicked queen Jezebel. Jezebel worshipped the heathen god Baal, and she persuaded Ahab to introduce this awful worship among the Israelites. She brought 450 Baal priests into the country and built a temple and many altars for his worship. (4) Tell how Elijah rebuked the people for their great sins, verse 21. The agreement is clearly stated in verses 23 and 24. The plan was very agreeable to the people. (7) Tell in detail how Elijah built his altar, what he did and what happened when God answered his prayer. (9) Tell how God revealed Himself to Pharaoh. Emphasize that God also reveals Himself in nature, in the creation and preservation of the world. But in His Word He most clearly reveals Himself. (10) Hundreds of times God says in the Old Testament that He is the only God, yet the people time and again turned to strange gods and served them. (12) Our darkened reason can not understand how God can be one God and yet three persons. But we believe it because God clearly states it over and over again in His Word. (13) Jesus also shows His relation to the Father here, that He is equal in honor and power to the Father. (14) This is called the apostolic blessing, and shows clearly the faith of the apostles in the Trinity. God so loved us that He sent His Son, and made it possible for us to be saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and it is the work of the Holy Spirit to bring us into the blessed communion of the Triune God. Apply Memory Verse and explain.

LESSON XVII.

GOLDEN TEXT.

1 Kings 18:36.—Lord God of Israel, let it be known this day that Thou art God in Israel, and that I am Thy servant.



GOD ANSWERS ELIJAH'S PRAYER.

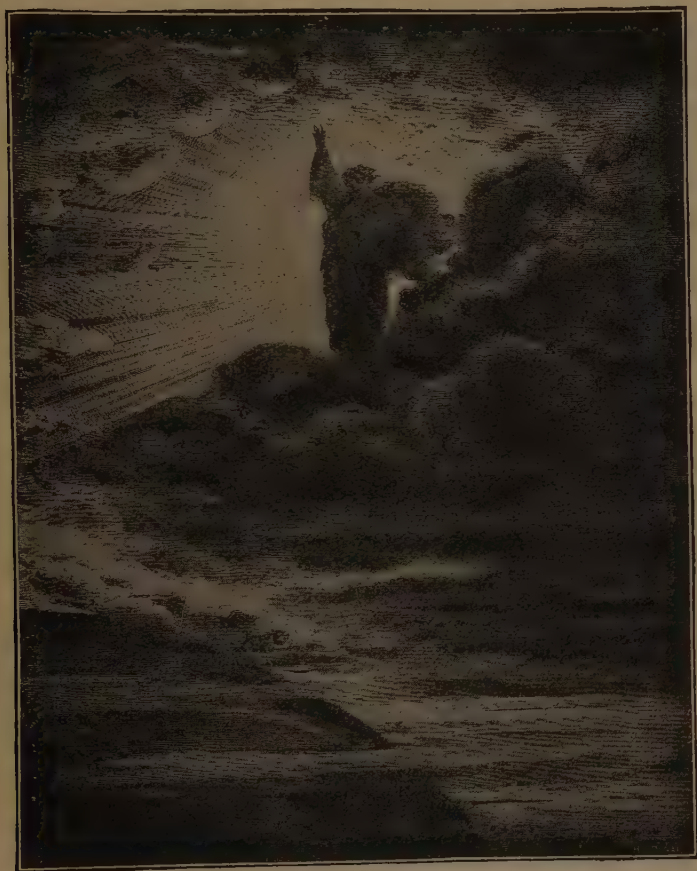
MEMORY VERSE.

Glory to God, the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To Thee, O blessed Trinity,  
Be praise throughout eternity! (16:4.)

LESSON XVIII.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ps. 33:9.—He spake and it was done; He commanded and it stood fast.



GOD MAKING HEAVEN AND EARTH.

MEMORY VERSE.

Heaven and earth, and sea and air,  
Still their Maker's praise declare;  
Thou, my soul, as loudly sing,  
To thy God thy praises bring. (33:1.)

THE FIRST ARTICLE (1). CREATION.

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.

*What is meant by this?*

I believe that God has made me together with all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them.

BIBLE TEXTS.

Ps. 104:24.—O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Gen. 1:27.—So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them.

CREATION: ADAM AND EVE.

Long ago God made the world. It did not look then as it does now; all was darkness. Then God said: "Let there be light," and the light came. After that, God made the sky, the seas, the rivers, and the dry land. He made trees and grass and flowers to grow out of the earth. He made fishes and other animals that live in the water, and the birds that live in the air. He also made the animals that live on the land, such as the horse, the cow, the cat, the dog and all other animals, large and small.

After God had made all these things He said: Let us make man in our image, and He created Adam and Eve in His own image. God created Adam out of dust, and breathed His soul into his nostrils. And God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and He took one of his ribs and made Eve thereof and brought her unto him. Then Adam said: This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman because she is taken out of man.

Adam and Eve lived in the beautiful garden of Eden and were innocent and knew neither sin nor sorrow nor sickness nor death. Gen. 1 and 2.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *How did God create everything according to our Golden Text?*
2. *What is God therefore called in the First Article?*
3. *Name some things that God has created.*
4. *How does the Psalmist express his admiration in our first Bible Text?*
5. *How did God create Adam?*
6. *How did God create Eve?*
7. *In whose image were they created? See second Bible Text.*
8. *What benefit did their soul have from the image of God?*  
*They had true wisdom, holiness, peace and joy.*
9. *What benefit did their body have from the image of God?*  
*They had perfect health, knew of no sorrow, sickness or death.*
10. *What did Adam say when he saw Eve?*
11. *Where were Adam and Eve to live?*
12. *Who do you say has created you?*
13. *What has God given you?*
14. *Name your senses.*
15. *Wherein do we differ from other creatures? We have soul and reason.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Gen. 1 and 2. Everything was dark and void when God began creating, but by His almighty Word God brought everything into existence. Emphasize the foolishness of believing that all the heavens and earth with their thousand varieties of plants and animals could develop out of nothing. God proved His existence by the creation and preservation of heaven and earth. Emphasize the marvelous wisdom of God as seen in a little seed developing into a large tree bearing beautiful flowers and fruit, or how a pretty little downy chick can develop out of an egg lying in a warm place. (4) Read Ps. 104 to the class. It expresses in most beautiful words God's wonderful wisdom and power. (5) Gen. 2:7. The Lord formed man of dust and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. This is what makes man so much superior to all other creatures. Therefore he is infinitely above the monkey, from which some people claim we have descended. (8) Adam showed his wisdom in giving the animals names, and knowing all about Eve's creation even though he was asleep. (9) Emphasize the peace and harmony there existed among all creatures. God gave all living things green herbs and fruit to eat, and no animal killed or devoured the other. (13) We should praise God for His gifts as we do in our Memory Verse. (15) Man can make himself a monkey or beast, by his sins, but no animal can ever develop into a human being with soul and reason.



## THE FIRST ARTICLE (2). GOD'S PROVIDENCE.

I believe that God has made me together with all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them.

I also believe that He gives me clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and home, wife and child, land, cattle and all my goods; that He richly and daily provides me with all that I need for this body and life; that He protects me from all danger and guards and keeps me from all evil.

### BIBLE TEXTS.

Gen. 50:20.—Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good.

Ps. 23:1.—The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

## MANNA AND WATER IN THE DESERT.

In lesson 5 we heard how God made Pharaoh let the people of Israel depart from Egypt. Moses led the people across the Red Sea into the wilderness of Arabia. Here they lacked both water and food, and murmured against Moses, and wished they were back to the fleshpots of Egypt. Moses smote the rock with his rod, and there flowed water, and the Lord sent them manna for food. This lay every morning like heavy frost on the ground, and melted when the sun rose. When the people asked Moses what this manna was, he said: This is the bread that the Lord hath given you to eat.

This manna tasted like wafers made with honey. The people were to gather it every morning as much as was needed for each family that day, and save nothing for the next day. But on the sixth day they were to gather an extra amount and save for the Sabbath day, because God would not have them gather food on the Sabbath day. The children of Israel ate this manna forty years, until they came into the land of Canaan. Ex. 16 and 17.

## QUESTIONS

1. *Of what bread does our Golden Text speak?*
2. *Who provided Israel with this bread?*
3. *How did God give them water?*
4. *Name some things that God provides you with according to the First Article.*
5. *Why can you say that God provides for our daily?*
6. *Why can you say that He provides for you richly?*
7. *Who provides for all animals, birds and insects?*
8. *When do people worry about what to eat and drink?*  
*When they do not trust fully in God.*
9. *Name some dangers that God protected the Israelites from.*
10. *Name some dangers that God can protect you from.*
11. *What does Joseph say to his brothers in our Bible Text?*
12. *Who protected Joseph and was with him all the time?*
13. *What evils will God guard and keep you from? Sin, the devil and wicked people.*
14. *Why shall I not be in want of anything according to our second Bible Text?*
15. *Whom alone is God obliged to provide for and keep? His own children.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Ex. 16 and 17. Tell how God delivered His people from Egypt, and led them safely across the Red Sea into the Arabian desert. Point out that God had promised to bring them safely back to Canaan, so that they had no reason to worry about what to eat or drink, but trust in Him. (4) Emphasize what would happen if God should refuse to give us of all these blessings. (7) Read Luke 12, 22-33 to the class, and explain how God provides everything with whatever is necessary for support and life. How wonderful that animals, birds and insects are protected during winter from starving and freezing to death. In the spring all species and varieties are present again. (8) When God cares for flowers and birds and animals as He does, how will He not much more care for His people, if they trust in Him. Emphasize Luke 12:21 and explain. (10) There are so many dangers that beset us every day, such as accidents, storms, fires, dangerous diseases, that we certainly need God's protection. (11) Let pupils tell what Joseph's brothers did to him. (12) Let pupils give other examples of God's protection. (13) These enemies will ruin us, unless we are constantly on the watch and ask God to keep us from their power. This is also emphasized in our Memory Verse. Apply it. (15) God has made many promises to care for His own children, but He has made no promises to care for the wicked.

LESSON XIX.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ex. 16:15.—And Moses said unto them: This is the bread that the Lord hath given you to eat.



MOSES GIVES THE PEOPLE WATER.

MEMORY VERSE.

A tender shepherd leads his sheep  
Where pastures green are growing,  
And there his flock doth guard and keep  
Beside still water flowing.  
Thus Christ, my Shepherd, leadeth me,  
My soul and body feedeth He,  
And for their wants provideth. (35a:2.)

LESSON XX.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Gen. 2:17.—On the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die.



ADAM AND EVE DRIVEN FROM PARADISE.

MEMORY VERSE.

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,  
Vouchsafe within our souls to rest;  
Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid,  
And fill the hearts which Thou hast made. (60a:1.)

## THE FIRST ARTICLE (3). THE FALL.

I believe that God has made me together with all creatures, that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them.

I also believe that He gives me clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and home, wife and child, land, cattle and all my goods; that He richly and daily provides me with all that I need for this body and life; that He protects me from all danger and guards and keeps me from all evil.

All this He does purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I am in duty bound to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

## BIBLE TEXTS.

Gen. 3:4-5.—Ye shall not surely die, but your eyes shall be opened to know good and evil.

Rom. 5:12.—By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

## THE FALL.

Adam and Eve were happy in Paradise. But one day the serpent came and beguiled and tempted them to eat of the tree of knowledge. The devil said to Eve: Has God truly said that ye shall not eat of any tree in the garden? Eve answered: Of all the other trees may we freely eat, but of the tree of Knowledge God hath said: Ye shall not eat of it lest ye die. The devil answered: Ye shall not die; for God knows that in the day ye eat thereof, your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as God, knowing good and evil. Eve then took of the fruit and ate, and she gave also to Adam, and he ate.

So God drove Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden. Then sin came into the world, and through sin came sorrow and sickness and death. Gen. 3.



## QUESTIONS.

1. *What did God tell Adam in our Golden Text?*
2. *What did the devil say to Eve in our first Bible Text?*
3. *What did Adam and Eve do?*
4. *How did God's Word come true? They died spiritually, lost the image of God.*
5. *What was the effect of sin on their body? It lost its health and became subject to pain and sickness and death.*
6. *What were their eyes opened to see? What an awful thing sin is.*
7. *What does our second Bible Text say about the result of Adam and Eve's sin?*
8. *How many people have become sinners on account of their sin?*
9. *What have you inherited from them?*
10. *What did God promise Adam and Eve after their fall?*
11. *What moved God to do this?*
12. *What moves God to be so good to you?*
13. *Why have you not deserved anything good from Him?*
14. *What do you, therefore, owe God for all His blessings?*
15. *How often should you thank and praise Him?*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Gen. 3. Review briefly lesson 18, and emphasize how blessed and happy Adam and Eve were in the beautiful garden of Paradise. They lived in peace with all animals, and all animals lived in peace with one another; neither man nor animal suffered pain or sorrow. Adam and Eve had the privilege of eating everything they liked in the garden, but to try their obedience, God told Adam that they should not eat of the tree of Knowledge. (2) The devil, who once had been like Adam and Eve, but had fallen away from God, envied them in their innocent state, and decided to tempt them away from God to become like himself. To do this he told them a lie, and they believed him more than they did God. Emphasize how many people today are much more willing to believe the devil than God. (4) Point out the awful result of their sin not only upon themselves but upon the whole world. Everything was cursed by this one sin. Animals became enemies to one another, killing and devouring each other, and enmity arose between man and animals. Adam and Eve lost their holiness, peace and joy in soul, and pain, suffering and death came upon their body. (8) If only Adam and Eve had been the ones to suffer on account of their sin, the result would not have been so bad, but all people have been poisoned by their sin. The child inherits sin and the results of sin from its parents. When a little child becomes angry, it is an expression of sin. (15) We also need to pray daily as we do in our Memory Verse. Let someone recite it.

THE SECOND ARTICLE (1). CHRIST'S PERSON.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried.

BIBLE TEXTS.

Luke 1:35.—The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee; therefore shall the Holy One born of thee be called the Son of God.

Matt. 1:21.—Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.

THE SAVIOR PROMISED.

The first promise of a Savior God gave Adam and Eve immediately after the fall. God told the serpent: The seed of the woman shall bruise thy head, but thou shalt bruise his heel. Gen. 3:15.

God repeated this promise to Abraham and later to Jacob, saying: In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. Gen. 12:3; 28, 14.

God revealed many things about the coming Savior to the Old Testament prophets, and they give many beautiful prophecies about Him in their writings in the Bible. Isaiah tells more about Him than any other prophet. He says about the coming Savior: Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulders; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. 9:6. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and Might, the Spirit of Knowledge, and of the fear of the Lord.

In 61:1 he lets Jesus say about Himself: The Lord hath anointed me to preach good things to the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *When and to whom did God speak the words in our Golden Text?*
2. *Who is meant by the seed of the woman? Jesus.*
3. *What did God say that Jesus should do?*
4. *What should the devil do to Jesus?*
5. *What promise did God give Abraham about Jesus?*
6. *What are some other things prophesied about Jesus?*
7. *In what respect was Jesus like us?*
8. *Why was it necessary for Jesus to become like us in body?  
So that He could suffer and die to pay for our sins.*
9. *Why did not Jesus inherit sin from His mother? He was  
conceived by the Holy Ghost.*
10. *What did the angel tell Mary about this in our first Bible  
Text?*
11. *Whose Son did the angel say He therefore was?*
12. *Give some other proofs that Jesus was the Son of God.  
His own words and the many miracles He performed.*
13. *Why did the angel say He should be called Jesus?*
14. *Why was it therefore necessary for Jesus to be true God?  
So that His suffering and death could pay for the sins  
of all people.*
15. *Why do you say that you believe in Jesus? I love and  
trust in Him as the Son of God, my personal Savior.*

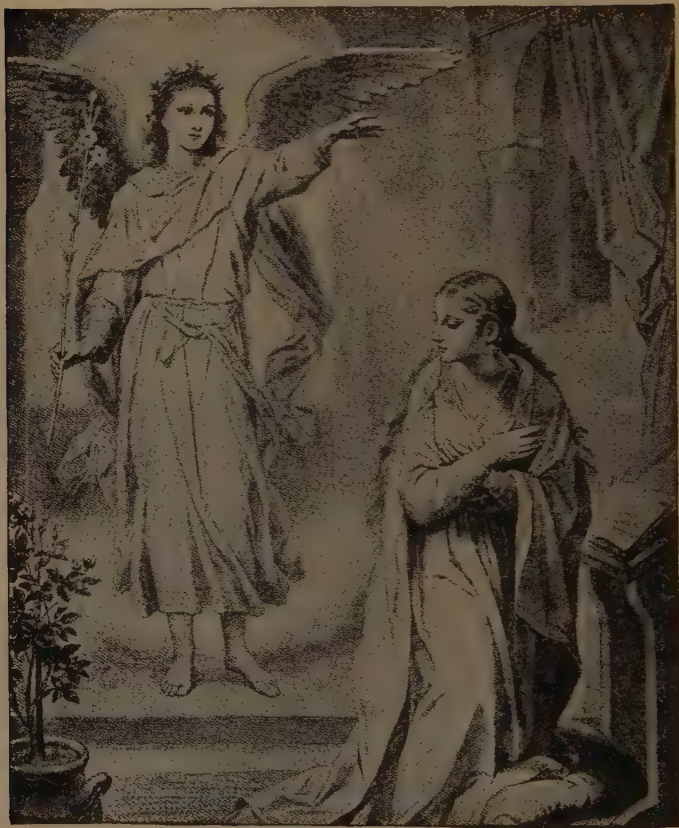
## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Review briefly the last lesson about the fall. (2) Bring in here the prophecy in Is. 4:14, the angel's visit to Mary, and what is said in the Second Article about His birth. (3) Point out that it was on Good Friday that Jesus was to bruise the devil's head by conquering him on the cross, but now the devil in turn should bruise His heel by the sufferings that he brought upon Him. (7) Ask children to show from the life of Jesus how much He was like us, how He was hungry, thirsty, tired, sleepy and suffered. (8) As God only, Jesus could not suffer, because God has no body, but is a spirit. (10) The angel calls Jesus "The Holy One" because He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. (12) Let pupils mention some of His miracles. Read Jesus' own declaration about Himself to the class, John 5:23; 10:30; Matt. 26:63-64. (14) Make clear with all the emphasis possible that Jesus could not save His people from their sins if He were only a perfect man. He could not then have suffered for the sins of one man, not to say for the sins of all people. See Ps. 49:7-8. (15) Emphasize that "believe" means that we believe everything that the Word of God says about Jesus, and that we fear and love and trust in Him as our personal Savior. And if we love Jesus, we will joyfully sing as we do in our Memory Verse.

LESSON XXI.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Gen. 3:15.—The seed of the woman shall bruise thy head, but thou shalt bruise his heel.



THE SAVIOR PROMISED.

MEMORY VERSE.

Triumph, ye Heavens! rejoice ye with high adoration!  
Sing to the Lord, to the Savior, in glad exultation  
Angels, give ear!  
God unto men draweth near,  
Bringing to lost ones salvation. (91:1.)

LESSON XXII.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ex. 30:10.—And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of the altar once a year.



BUILDING THE TEMPLE.  
The High Priest and the Ark.

MEMORY VERSE.

Praise to Thee and adoration,  
Blessed Jesus, Son of God,  
Who, to serve Thine own creation,  
Didst partake of flesh and blood;  
Teach me that I never may  
From Thy fold or pastures stray,  
But with zeal and joy exceeding  
Follow where Thy steps are leading. (152:1.)



## THE SECOND ARTICLE (2). CHRIST'S OFFICES.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

## BIBLE TEXTS.

Heb. 7:27.—He offered up sacrifices for the sins of the people once for all, when He offered up Himself.

Luke 24:19.—Jesus was a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people.

## THE TEMPLE AND THE HIGH PRIEST.

At the command of the Lord, Moses gave laws concerning worship. He made Aaron high-priest, and after him his oldest son and thus successively from son to son. The other sons of Aaron became priests, and the other descendants of Levi, or the Levites, became their assistants. A Tabernacle, or large tent, was raised and divided into two parts: The Holy of Holies, and the Holy. Only the high-priest must enter the Holy of Holies, and even he only once a year. The Holy was for the priests. Round about the Tabernacle was the Court, which was without roof, where the people should assemble. There were three great feasts: The Passover, in memory of the passing out of Egypt; the Feast of Weeks, or Pentecost; and the Feast of Tabernacles, in memory of Israel's living in tents. There were many kinds of sacrifices. The most important sacrifice was brought on the great Feast of Atonement, when the high-priest went into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled the blood of an ox and of a he-goat on the mercy seat for the sins of himself and of the people. Ex. 30; 40; Lev. 16.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What is said about Aaron in our Golden Text?*
2. *Who was Aaron?*
3. *How often was he to sacrifice?*
4. *Where did he sacrifice?*
5. *What did he sacrifice?*
6. *For whom did he sacrifice?*
7. *What else did he do? He prayed for the people.*
8. *Give a Bible Text to prove that Jesus is a High Priest.*
9. *For whom did He offer sacrifices?*
10. *What did He sacrifice for us?*
11. *Where did He sacrifice His blood for us?*
12. *What is He doing for us now as our High Priest? He prays for us and sends us His Holy Spirit.*
13. *Give a Bible Text to prove that Jesus is a prophet.*
14. *In what is He mighty?*
15. *What third office does Jesus have? He is our King.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Ex. 30:1-10; 40; Lev. 16. Ask questions and tell about the tabernacle, its different parts and the different sacrifices. Point out how all the sacrifices of blood in the Old Testament were a picture of the blood that Jesus was to sacrifice for the atonement of sin. (2) There was only one High Priest, for he was to be a picture of Christ in His sacrificing for sin. (9) As the High Priest sacrificed for the sins of all the people, so Jesus sacrificed Himself for the sins of all people. (10) Jesus sacrificed not the blood of an ox or a goat, but His own holy and precious blood. (11) The High Priest sacrificed once a year. Jesus, of Whom he was a picture, sacrificed Himself "once for all" on the cross. (12) Jesus prayed for His people while on earth (see John 17, and read some of it to the class), but especially now does He sit at the right hand of the Father to pray for us. Emphasize the comfort of having a friend like Jesus praying for us. There is, therefore, no need of any saints in heaven to pray for us, as the Catholic Church teaches. (13) As our Prophet, He now sends us teachers and pastors. Therefore we can ask Him to teach us as we do in our Memory Verse. (14) Jesus was so mighty in the Word that people had to admit that no one ever spoke as He did. In healing the sick and raising the dead, He showed His mighty works. (15) Emphasize what a blessed privilege it is to have Jesus for our King.

## LESSON XXIII.

### THE SECOND ARTICLE (3). REDEMPTION.

I believe that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary.

I believe that He is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil.

#### BIBLE TEXTS.

Heb. 2:14.—He partook of the flesh and blood that through death He might destroy him that hath the power of death, that is, the devil.

Col. 1:14.—In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.

### DAVID AND GOLIATH.

There was war with the Philistines. Among them was a mighty champion by name Goliath, who for 40 days came before the camp and mocked the Israelites, because no one dared to meet him in combat. When David came to the camp and learned this, he offered to go against him. King Saul objected, but David answered: Once while I kept my father's sheep I killed a lion and a bear that came to take a lamb. The Lord who delivered me from the lion and the bear, will also deliver me from this Philistine. Then Saul said: Go, and the Lord be with thee. David took his staff and his sling and five smooth stones from the brook and went against Goliath. When the champion saw this he cried: Am I a dog that thou comest against me with staves? David answered: Thou comest against me with sword and with spear; but I come against thee in the name of the Lord, the God of hosts. Then he put a stone in his sling and threw it, and struck the champion in the forehead, so he fell to the earth. David ran and drew the Philistine's sword out of the sheath, and beheaded him. 1 Sam. 17.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *To whom did David speak the words in our Golden Text?*
2. *Who was Goliath and whom did he mock?*
3. *Tell how David saved his people from this awful enemy.*
4. *Of whom is Goliath a picture? The devil, who mocks God and His people.*
5. *Who alone dared to attack the devil?*
6. *When and where did the battle take place between Jesus and the devil?*
7. *In what respect then is Jesus like David? He saved His people.*
8. *Give a Bible Text to prove that Jesus saved us from the devil.*
9. *How does this Bible Text say Jesus destroyed the power of the devil?*
10. *How did the devil get "the power of death"? He tempts people to sin, and the wages of sin is death.*
11. *From what besides the devil did Jesus purchase and win you?*
12. *Give a Bible Text to prove that Jesus saved you from sin.*
13. *From what death did Jesus save you? Spiritual and eternal.*
14. *Why did Jesus have to redeem you according to the Second Article?*
15. *Why do you therefore call Jesus Lord? He has redeemed me. I am His, and Him will I serve.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read 1 Sam. 17. Picture to the children the great army of the Philistines and their mighty leader, Goliath. The army of the Israelites was small and no one dared to attack the terrible giant. For forty days he mocked the people and their God, but finally the boy David came and volunteered to go against him. Likewise the devil and his host for forty centuries mocked God and His people, and no one dared to go against him before Jesus, the Son of God and the Son of David, came in the name of the Lord of Hosts to attack him. (6) The battle between the Israelites and the Philistines took place at about the same place where Jesus suffered and died. (7) Jesus differed from David in that He gave His life to save His people. (8) By becoming a man with flesh and blood, Jesus through His suffering and death destroyed the power of the devil. (9) Like Goliath, the devil threatened all people with certain death, bodily, spiritual and eternal, but when Jesus overcame him, he lost the power of all forms of death. (10) The punishment for all sin is death, and when the devil led Adam and Eve and all people after them to sin, he could say: You are now guilty of death, I have the power of death. But when Jesus paid for our sins, He thereby took away the cause of death, and therefore the devil lost this power. (12) Apply Memory Verse, and explain.

LESSON XXIII.

GOLDEN TEXT.

1 Sam. 17:45.—I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts.



DAVID AND GOLIATH.

MEMORY VERSE.

Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness  
My beauty are, my glorious dress;  
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,  
With joy shall I lift up my head. (31:1.)



LESSON XXIV.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Gen. 50:20.—Ye thought evil against me, but God meant it unto good.



JOSEPH SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS

MEMORY VERSE.

Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,  
Which at the mercy-seat of God  
For ever doth for sinners plead,  
For me, e'en for my soul was shed. (31:3.)

## LESSON XXIV.

### THE SECOND ARTICLE (4). HUMILIATION.

I believe that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary.

I believe that He is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil,

Not with gold and silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death.

#### BIBLE TEXTS.

Phil. 2:8.—He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death on the cross.

1 Peter 1:18-19.—Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conservation, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

### JOSEPH SOLD AND THROWN INTO PRISON.

Joseph was one of the 12 sons of Jacob. Jacob loved him more than his other sons and showed him favors. This made his brothers angry and jealous, and they treated him cruelly. Because he had strange dreams, they called him "the dreamer," and decided to kill him to see what would become of his dreams. They first threw him into an empty pit, but later sold him for \$20 to some merchants.

The merchants who bought Joseph brought him to Egypt and sold him to Potiphar, the captain of the king's life guard. But Joseph trusted in God and God was with him and made him prosper. He was honest and faithful and Potiphar made him overseer over his house. But Potiphar's wife fell in love with Joseph and wanted him to become her husband. Joseph knew this would be a great sin and said: How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God? She then became very angry at Joseph and belied and slandered him to her husband. Potiphar believed his wife and cast Joseph into prison, where he remained many years. Gen. 50,

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What did Joseph tell his brothers in our Golden Text?*
2. *What had they done to him?*
3. *Why were all his sufferings innocent?*
4. *How did God save many people through the sufferings of Joseph? Joseph's people, the people of Egypt and many others were saved from the famine.*
5. *In what respect does Joseph remind you of Jesus? He suffered innocently from his people, but through his suffering saved them.*
6. *Give a Bible Text to show how Jesus humbled Himself.*
7. *When did Jesus begin His life of humiliation? At birth.*
8. *What good did Jesus accomplish by His humiliation and suffering? He redeemed, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil.*
9. *With what does our Catechism lesson say that He purchased you?*
10. *Give a Bible Text to prove this.*
11. *Why could not silver and gold pay for our sins? The only payment for sin is death.*
12. *Why is Jesus' blood called holy and precious? It is the blood of the Son of God, and can cleanse from all sin.*
13. *To what is Jesus likened in our Bible Text?*
14. *When and where was the holy and precious blood of this Lamb offered?*
15. *How can you be benefited by the blood of Jesus? By believing in Him as my personal Redeemer.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Gen. 50, and review briefly the story of Joseph. (4) God directed the life of Joseph after he was sold, in such a way that through humiliation and suffering he rose to become lord over all Egypt. In this way Joseph became the savior of his own people as well as many others, when the famine came. (5) As Joseph became the savior of his people through humiliation and suffering, so Jesus became our Savior through His humiliation and suffering. (7) Emphasize what a humiliation it must have been for Jesus, the almighty God, to be born a helpless child, grow up like a weak boy and man, and besides this to suffer cruelly at the hands of men and the devil. (11) If we could have been redeemed with silver and gold, Jesus as the almighty God could have produced all that He needed, but silver and gold can not atone for a single sin. Emphasize how even the richest millionaire can not be saved by his money. (12) Illustrate the atonement of Jesus by a large debt that father owes at the store. He can not pay and is threatened with severe punishment. A rich friend has much money in the bank and sends father a check to pay the whole debt. The debt is paid, and father is free. (15) Apply Memory Verse.

## THE SECOND ARTICLE (5). EXALTATION.

I believe that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary.

I believe that He is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death.

All this He has done that I might be His own, live under Him in His Kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

## BIBLE TEXTS.

Rom. 1:4.—Jesus Christ was declared to be the Son of God with power, by the resurrection from the dead.

Col. 3:1.—If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God.

## JOSEPH SET OVER EGYPT.

Joseph was in prison many years, but God was with him and blessed him so that he was set over all the other prisoners. God also gave him wisdom to interpret dreams. He interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh's chief butler and chief baker, who had been thrown into prison. And when Pharaoh had a dream that none of the wise men of Egypt could interpret, Pharaoh sent and called Joseph out of prison and said: I have heard say of thee that thou canst interpret dreams. Joseph answered: It is not in me; God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace. When he had heard Pharaoh's dream, he interpreted it thus: There shall come seven years of great plenty, and after them seven years of famine. Then Pharaoh answered: Because God has shown you all this, there is no one so wise as you, and see, I have set you over all the land of Egypt. Joseph was thirty years old when he was made ruler of Egypt, and he went through the land and stored up grain during the seven years of plenty. Gen. 41.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What did Pharaoh tell Joseph in our Golden Text?*
2. *How was Joseph exalted after his humiliation?*
3. *How does this remind you of Jesus? After His humiliation Jesus was raised to become our King.*
4. *What did Jesus declare by His resurrection according to our first Bible Text?*
5. *What more did His resurrection prove? He had conquered over sin, death and the power of the devil.*
6. *What strength does He give you by His resurrection? To rise from spiritual death and live a new life.*
7. *Where did Jesus go forty days after His resurrection?*
8. *What does our Bible Text say about those who are risen with Christ from spiritual death?*
9. *What is meant by "sitteth at the right hand of God?" He sits there as our king, as Joseph sat at the right hand of Pharaoh and ruled.*
10. *Why has Jesus redeemed you according to the Second Article?*
11. *Where are you to live with Him?*
12. *How are you to serve Him?*
13. *Why will you serve Him?*
14. *When will He make you fully blessed? When He comes to raise me from the dead.*
15. *How long shall you live and reign with Him?*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Gen. 41. Review briefly Joseph's former life, and what led to his exaltation. Explain exaltation. It means to raise up, to make great in power and honor. (3) As Joseph was exalted to power and glory by Pharaoh, so Jesus after His humiliation was exalted by God to become the king of the whole world. (4) Those who deny that Jesus is the Son of God must also deny that Jesus rose from the dead, because only as the Son of God could He rise from the dead. The resurrection is the central thought in our worship, and can not be emphasized too much. (5) If death and the devil had been too powerful for Jesus to conquer, they would have held Him in the grave. But when He rises, He shows clearly that He has conquered them. This is also emphasized in our Memory Verse. Apply it. (6) If Jesus was still in the grave, we would all be dead in our sins. But because He conquered sin and death and arose, we can rise from sin and death, and walk in a new life with Him. (8) Because Jesus is in heaven, our mind and heart should be turned toward heaven. (10) Emphasize "His own," and how we should rejoice because we belong to Jesus. (11) Emphasize the great honor of living under Jesus in His kingdom, His church here on earth.



LESSON XXV.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Gen. 41:41.—And Pharaoh said unto Joseph: See, have set thee over the land of Egypt.



JOSEPH EXPLAINS THE DREAM OF PHARAOH.

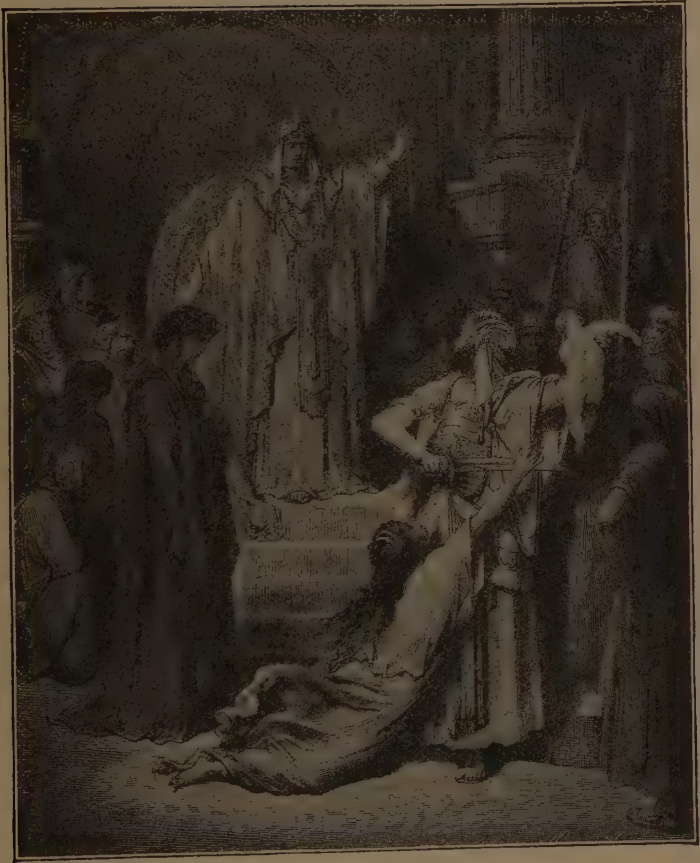
MEMORY VERSE.

Jesus lives! The broken tomb  
Tells the resurrection story.  
Joy has now dispelled the gloom;  
Sealed His passion is with glory.  
Lightning gleams, and mountains quiver,  
He was dead, but lives forever! (111:1.)

LESSON XXVI.

GOLDEN TEXT.

1 Kings 3:5, 9.—Ask what I shall give thee. And Solomon said: Give Thy servant an understanding heart to discern between good and bad.



SOLOMON SHOWS HIS WISDOM.

MEMORY VERSE.

Come, O come, Thou quickening Spirit,  
Thou forever art divine;  
Let Thy power never fail me,  
Always fill this heart of mine;  
Thus shall grace, and truth, and light  
Dissipate the gloom of night. (59:1.)

THE THIRD ARTICLE (1). THE HOLY SPIRIT.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

BIBLE TEXTS.

Matt. 28:19.—Baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

1 Cor. 3:16.—Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

SOLOMON.

Solomon became king after David. God appeared unto Solomon in a dream, and said: Ask, what I shall give thee. Solomon asked for wisdom. Shortly after two women came to him. They dwelt together, and each had given birth to a child. When one of them smothered her child in the night, she arose and took the child of the other, and laid her own in its place. Both asserted now she was mother to the living child. Solomon said: Divide the child in two, and give half to one and half to the other. Then the one cried: Give her the child and do not divide it. The other said: Divide it, so it shall be neither mine nor thine. Then Solomon said: Give the child to her who wills it shall live, for she is the mother. All Israel heard the judgment and feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him.

Solomon was wiser than all other men, and the fame of his wisdom spread abroad, and the queen of Sheba came to hear him. He spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,055. 1 Kings 3.

The prophet Joel spoke about the coming of the Holy Spirit in these words: I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Also upon the servants and handmaids will I pour out my Spirit in those days. Joel 2:28-29.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What did God say to Solomon in our Golden Text?*
2. *What did Solomon answer God?*
3. *Why did he want a good understanding?*
4. *Tell about the incident that showed his wisdom.*
5. *What did Solomon write that shows his wisdom?*
6. *Who gave him this wonderful wisdom? The Holy Spirit.*
7. *What does Joel say about the Holy Spirit?*
8. *Upon whom was God to pour out His Spirit?*
9. *What is meant by "prophesying"? They should get wisdom and understanding like Solomon to speak and do wonderful things.*
10. *On what day did God pour out His Spirit?*
11. *Give a Bible Text to show when you got the Holy Spirit.*
12. *What does Paul call our heart in our second Bible Text?*
13. *Who is to dwell in this temple?*
14. *What does Paul call the Spirit here?*
15. *What do you mean by believing in the Holy Spirit? I love and trust Him as the One who is to teach me about Jesus and make me holy.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read 1 Kings 3. Tell about Solomon, becoming king over the Jews when his father David died, how he loved the Lord and followed in the ways of his father. God was pleased with him and appeared to him and promised to give him whatever he should ask. (3) Solomon was young and felt that what he needed most was understanding to rule his people as a good and just king. (5) Point out that these proverbs and songs are found in the Bible, and because the Holy Spirit helped him write them, therefore they are the Word of God. Read a few of these proverbs to the class. (10) Point out that even though the Holy Spirit was active in the Old Testament, it was especially after Pentecost that He became very active. (11) This Bible Text also proves that the Holy Spirit is equal to Jesus and the Father and a person, not only a power. (12) Paul compares our hearts here to a temple or house. (13) And the one who is to live in and control this house is the Holy Spirit. Therefore it should always be our aim to keep our heart pure from bad thoughts and desires, and daily ask the Spirit to keep it holy. (14) Emphasize "of God." It shows that the Holy Spirit is God, and also a person, otherwise He could not be spoken of as dwelling in us. (15) It is therefore so natural that we ask Jesus to send us His Holy Spirit as we do in our Memory Verse. Let someone recite it.

## LESSON XXVII.

### THE THIRD ARTICLE (2). THE CALL.

I believe that I cannot of my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel.

#### BIBLE TEXTS.

Rom 1:16.—The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.

Luke 14:17.—Come, for all things are now ready.

Acts 7:51.—Ye do always resist the Holy Spirit.

### ABRAHAM'S CALL.

Terah descended from Shem. He dwelt in Mesopotamia and had three sons, Abraham, Nahor and Haran. Terah served strange gods. And the Lord said unto Abraham: Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto the land that I will show thee. I will make of thee a great nation, and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed. So Abraham took Sarah, his wife, and his brother's son Lot, and all that he had, and went to the land of Canaan. And the Lord appeared unto Abraham and said: Unto thy seed will I give this land. And there he builded an altar unto the Lord, Who appeared unto him.

Abraham was very rich in cattle, in silver and in gold. Lot also was rich in flocks and herds. And there was a strife between the herdsmen of Abraham and the herdsmen of Lot about the pastures. And Abraham said unto Lot: Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between thee and me, and between my herdsmen and thy herdsmen, for we are brethren. Is not the land before thee? If thou wilt go to the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou go to the right hand, then I will go to the left. Lot saw that the plain of Jordan was well watered, so he chose this plain for himself, and pitched his tents toward Sodom. But the people of Sodom were very wicked, and sinned exceedingly against the Lord. Gen. 11-12.



## QUESTIONS.

1. *What did God ask Abraham to do in our Golden Text?*
2. *Why did God call him away from home?*
3. *What did God promise him?*
4. *Whom did Abraham take with him?*
5. *To what land did they go?*
6. *What did he build unto the Lord there?*
7. *Who calls you according to our Catechism lesson?*
8. *What does He call you to leave? Sin and all wickedness.*
9. *Where does He ask you to go? To Jesus.*
10. *By what does He call you?*
11. *What does our Bible Text say about the Gospel?*
12. *Who must help you believe the Gospel?*
13. *Why can you not believe by "your own reason or strength"?*  
*My understanding is too dark and dull to grasp the spiritual things.*
14. *What does the Holy Spirit ask you to do in our second Bible Text?*
15. *What is said in our last Bible Text about those who will not come?*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Gen. 11:27-12:8. Ask where Abraham lived. (2) Emphasize that it must have been hard for him to leave home and relatives and go to a far off strange country. But God saw the danger that if Abraham staid at home, he or his family might be led to worship strange gods also. God called him away from the danger of a life in sin and wickedness to a life of blessings and salvation with Him. (9) As God called Abraham away from the dangers of sin and wickedness, so the Holy Spirit calls us. (9) And as God called Abraham to a life of blessings, so the Holy Spirit calls us to come to Jesus to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him. (10) God called Abraham through His Word, and that is what the Holy Spirit uses to call us by. By the Law, He opens our eyes to see what an awful thing sin is, and by the Gospel He tells us all about Jesus and calls us to come to Him. (11) The Gospel is powerful enough to save the greatest sinner who will listen to it. It is a "power" because the Holy Spirit works through it. (13) By nature we are spiritually dead, and our reason is so darkened, and our spiritual eye so blinded that we can neither believe in Jesus nor come unto Him. But when the Holy Spirit calls us, He thereby gives us strength both to believe in Jesus and to come to Him, if we do not resist Him. Therefore we daily need to ask the Holy Spirit for His help as we do in our Memory Verse. (14) Salvation can be compared to a great feast that Jesus, by His redemption, has made ready, and all we have to do is to accept the invitation when the Spirit calls.

LESSON XXVII.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Gen. 12:1.—God said to Abraham: Get thee out of thy country and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee.



ABRAHAM LEAVES HOME.

MEMORY VERSE.

Grant my mind and my affections  
Wisdom, counsel, purity,  
That I may be ever seeking  
Naught but that which pleases Thee;  
Let Thy knowledge spread and grow,  
And all error overthrow. (59:2.)

LESSON XXVIII.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ps. 51:10.—Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.



DAVID REPENTS.

MEMORY VERSE.

Dearest Jesus, draw Thou near me,  
Let Thy Spirit dwell with mine;  
Open now my ear to hear Thee,  
Take my heart and seal it Thine;  
Keep me, lead me on my way,  
Thee to follow and obey,  
E'er to do Thy will and fear Thee,  
And rejoice to know and hear Thee. (13:1)

THE THIRD ARTICLE (3). ENLIGHTENMENT.

I believe that I cannot of my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel,

Enlightened me with His gifts and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith.

BIBLE TEXTS.

Matt. 9:12.—They that be whole need no physician, but they that are sick.

Acts 10:43.—Whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.

John 17:3.—This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom Thou hast sent.

DAVID'S REPENTANCE.

King David fell in love with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah. He therefore caused Uriah to be killed, and took Bathsheba for his wife.

The Lord sent the prophet Nathan unto David, and he said: There were two men in one city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing save one little lamb, which did eat of his morsel, and drink of his cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. And there came a traveler unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, but took the poor man's only lamb, and dressed it for the wayfaring man.

David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said: The man that did this is a son of death. Nathan answered: Thou art the man! Uriah hast thou smitten with the sword of the Ammonites, and his wife hast thou taken to be thy wife. David humbled himself before the Lord and said: O God, create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Nathan said: The Lord has put away thy sin: thou shalt not die. 2 Sam. 12.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *For what does David pray in our Golden Text?*
2. *What great sins had David committed?*
3. *Whom did God send to tell him about his sins?*
4. *What parable did Nathan tell him?*
5. *What did David think about the man in the parable?*
6. *What did Nathan then tell him?*
7. *What did the Holy Spirit do for David through Nathan's sermon? He enlightened him.*
8. *What does "enlightenment" mean? To lighten up or open the eyes of the spiritually blind.*
9. *What was David now in need of according to our first Bible Text?*
10. *What Physician alone could heal David's heart?*
11. *What does the Holy Spirit promise him in the second Bible Text?*
12. *What did Nathan promise David?*
13. *What does Jesus say that life eternal is? See last Bible Text.*
14. *Who must teach you to know God and Jesus?*
15. *How does He teach you? Through the Word of God.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Sam. 12:1-14. Tell what a good man and king David was, but he fell in love with his neighbor's wife, and in order to get her for wife, he caused her husband to be killed. It is easy for the best Christian to fall into sin, if he is not always on guard. (2) Ask what Commandments David sinned against. (3) Point out that the minister is the servant of God today who is to tell people about their sins, ask them to repent and believe in Jesus. (5) When the minister preaches about sin, it is because he wants the people to see like David that they are the guilty ones. (7) The Holy Spirit must work through the sermon of the minister if it shall prove a blessing. (9) As it is only those who know that they are bodily sick who care for a doctor, so it is only those who feel spiritually sick who ask for a doctor who can heal their broken hearts. (10) And Jesus is the only Doctor who can heal our sick hearts. (11) The best cure for a sick soul is to be permitted to bring all its sins to Jesus and have Him pardon them and blot them out. (13) "To know" God and Jesus means to believe in Him, that He will pardon your sins, and with your sins pardoned, the way to eternal life is open. It is sin that bars the way to eternal life. (15) Jesus has given us His Word, and it is through this Word as a medium that we receive the Holy Spirit. This is beautifully put in our Memory Verse. Let someone give it.



## THE THIRD ARTICLE (4). SANCTIFICATION.

I believe that I cannot of my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith;

Even as He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth.

### BIBLE TEXTS.

Rom. 3:24.—Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.

Gal. 3:26.—Ye are the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Phil. 1:6.—He who hath begun the good work in you will perfect it unto the day of Jesus Christ.

## ABRAHAM IS STRONG IN FAITH.

In lesson 27 we heard how God called Abraham. The Lord appeared again unto Abraham and promised him that his seed should become as numerous as the stars of heaven. Abraham was old, and Sarah was old, and they had no children; but Abraham believed the Lord's promise, and He counted it to him for righteousness.

One day three men came to visit Abraham. Abraham ran to meet them, bowed himself to the earth and said: Pass not by thy servant, rest yourselves under the tree, and let me fetch a morsel of bread to strengthen you; after that you shall pass on. And they said: So do, as thou hast said. And Abraham ran unto the herd and had a good calf dressed and prepared, and Sarah took fine meal and baked cakes. And he took cream and milk and set before the men, and he stood by them under the tree, while they did eat. Then said one of them: Where is Sarah your wife? In a year's time I shall return, and Sarah shall then have a son. Sarah heard this in the tent and laughed; for she thought she was too old to have children. But the One who was the Lord said: Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? Gen. 15 and 18.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What is said about Abraham in our Golden Text?*
2. *What is meant by "Abraham believed in the Lord"? He trusted in all the promises of God and obeyed Him.*
3. *What is meant by "counted it to him for righteousness"? God pardoned his sins and thereby made him righteous.*
4. *How did Abraham show that he was righteous? He always tried to do God's will.*
5. *Who came to visit Abraham and how did he receive them?*
6. *What does "justified" mean in the first Bible Text? That God pardons our sins, counts us righteous like Abraham.*
7. *How are we justified according to this Bible Text?*
8. *Why are we justified by grace? We do not deserve it, and cannot do anything whereby we can be justified.*
9. *What must you do to be justified? Believe in Jesus as my personal Redeemer.*
10. *When you believe in Jesus what do you become? See Bible Text.*
11. *What is the greatest wish of the child of God? Like Abraham to do God's will.*
12. *Who must help you to do God's will?*
13. *What does our last Bible Text say about this?*
14. *What good work has the Holy Spirit begun in you? He has called me and enlightened me.*
15. *What good work must He still perform? He must sanctify and preserve me.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Gen. 15 and 18: 1-16. Review briefly lesson 27 about the call of Abraham. (2) Abraham showed a strong faith in God, and even though he could not understand why God asked him to do certain things and how He could fulfill His promises to him, yet he trusted faithfully in God that He knew what was best for him and would be able to keep His promises. Because of his faith, Abraham is called the father of believers. (3) Emphasize that it was on account of his faith and not on account of any obedience or good works that God declared him righteous. His obedience and good works came as a result of faith in God. (7) Just as Abraham was declared righteous by grace through faith in God's promises, so are we made righteous, justified by God through faith in the redemption of Jesus. God acquits us of sin and its punishment, and regards us in Christ as if we never had sinned. (8) Emphasize grace. "Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to Thy cross I cling. Naked, come to Thee for dress. Helpless, look to Thee for grace." (10) Emphasize the blessing of being a child of God. See 1 John 3:1-2. (11) We must show our faith by our good works. Read James 2:14-20. Apply Memory Verse.

LESSON XXIX.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Gen. 15:6.—And Abraham believed in the Lord, and He counted it to him for righteousness.



ABRAHAM RECEIVES THE THREE VISITORS.

MEMORY VERSE.

Jesus, sway my thoughts and guide me  
So to live and follow Thee,  
That whatever may betide me  
I God's child may ever be!  
Make my moments rich in blessing,  
Each Thy glory to proclaim,  
Let me live and die confessing,  
Blessed Lord, Thy holy name! (156a:1.)

## LESSON XXX.

### GOLDEN TEXT.

1 Kings 9:3.—I have hallowed this house which thou hast built, and my eyes and my heart shall be there forever.



SOLOMON'S TEMPLE.

### MEMORY VERSE.

My Church! my Church! my dear old Church!  
My fathers' and my own!  
On prophets and apostles built,  
And Christ the Cornerstone!  
All else beside, by storm or tide,  
May yet be overthrown;  
But not my Church, my dear old Church,  
My fathers' and my own! (132a:1.)

## THE THIRD ARTICLE (5). THE CHURCH.

I believe that I cannot of my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith;

Even as He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

## BIBLE TEXTS.

1 Peter 2:9.—Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Mark 16:15.—Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.

## SOLOMON BUILDS THE TEMPLE.

On Mount Moriah in Jerusalem Solomon built a magnificent temple instead of the Tabernacle, and put the ark in the Holy of Holies. When the temple was finished, Solomon knelt down and prayed: O Lord, the heaven, and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee; how much less this house that I have built. Yet hear Thou in heaven, Thy dwelling place, every humble prayer that shall be sent up to Thee from this house! And when a stranger, that is not of Israel, shall come and pray towards this house, then hear Thou his prayers also!

And Solomon arose and blessed all the congregation of Israel, saying: Blessed be the Lord who has given rest unto His people Israel, and kept all His promises. Let your heart therefore be perfect with the Lord our God, to keep His Commandments. And the King and all Israel with him offered sacrifices before the Lord.

The Lord said unto Solomon: I have hallowed this house which thou hast built, and my eyes and heart shall be there forever. 1 Kings 5-8.



## QUESTIONS.

1. *To whom does God speak in our Golden Text?*
2. *What house had Solomon built?*
3. *Where did he build this temple?*
4. *What did he do when the temple was ready?*
5. *What did God promise him according to our Golden Text?*
6. *Of what was the temple and congregation at Jerusalem a picture? The Holy Christian Church.*
7. *Of whom is Solomon a picture? Jesus who has founded and built the Holy Christian Church.*
8. *What people constitute the Holy Christian Church? All true believers.*
9. *What does Peter call the members of the Christian Church? See first Bible Text.*
10. *From what and into what has the Holy Spirit called them?*
11. *In what union must the Holy Spirit preserve them? See Catechism lesson.*
12. *How are we to show forth the praises of God? See last Bible Text.*
13. *What is the local branch of the Church called? Congregation.*
14. *What people besides true believers are as a rule found in a congregation? Unbelievers, called hypocrites.*
15. *What is the duty of true believers to these? Urge them to repent and believe.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read 1 Kings 5-8. Tell about the plan of the temple. The Holy of Holies was for the High Priest, and he entered there only once a year to sacrifice for the sins of the people. The Holy was for the priests, where they offered sacrifices. The people were permitted to come only into the court around the temple. (6) There was only one temple and one congregation. So there is only one true Christian Church. (7) Point out that the Church is called Christian after Christ, its founder and builder. The glory of the Church is emphasized in our Memory Verse. (8) The Church is like a large family with Jesus as its head. People are born into the church through Baptism, and it does not make any difference whether true Christians live in the United States, Canada, Norway, or any other country—they belong to the same family called the Holy Christian Church. It is the same as children of the same family living in different parts of the same country or in different countries. (9) True Christians are called “a chosen generation” because the Holy Spirit has chosen and called them from the darkness of sin into the marvelous light of salvation. They are called a “royal priesthood” because they are all to be ministers of God to show forth His praises in word and deed. They are called a “holy nation” because their Master is holy, and the Spirit Who works in them and through them is holy.

# THE THIRD ARTICLE (6). FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

I believe that I cannot of my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith;

Even as He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on Earth, and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives me and all believers all our sins.

## BIBLE TEXTS.

Matt. 11:28.— Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

1 John 1:7.—The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin.

1 John 1:9.—If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## THE THIRTY-SECOND PSALM.

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. When I kept silence, my bones wasted away through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Thy hand was heavy upon me; my moisture was changed as with the drought of summer. I acknowledged my sin unto Thee, and my iniquity did I not hide. And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

For this let every one that is godly pray unto Thee, in a time when thou mayest be found. Thou art my hiding place; Thou wilt preserve me from trouble; Thou wilt compass me about with songs of deliverance.

I will instruct thee, and teach thee in the way that thou shalt go; I will counsel thee with my eye upon thee. Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding; whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, else they will not come near unto thee.

Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about. Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous; and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *Whom does David call blessed in our Golden Text?*
2. *How did David feel so long as he kept silence, did not confess his sins?*
3. *What did he finally acknowledge and confess?*
4. *What did the Lord then do?*
5. *What does he therefore advise you to do?*
6. *What does he say about the wicked?*
7. *What does he finally urge the righteous and upright to do?*
8. *Who are those that "labor and are heavy laden" in our Bible Text? Those who feel their sins as a heavy burden and want to get rid of them.*
9. *What does Jesus promise them if they come to Him?*
10. *Why can we find rest with Jesus? See second Bible Text.*
11. *What must we do to receive forgiveness? Do as David did.*
12. *What will Jesus do if we confess? See last Bible Text.*
13. *Why do you need forgiveness daily?*
14. *What does it mean that He "richly forgives?" He grants full and perfect forgiveness.*
15. *Why have you then reason to "rejoice and shout for joy?"*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Ps. 32 carefully and be sure that you know the meaning of all the words used, so you can explain them in class. (1) Not he who tries to cover up his sins is blessed, but he who lets Jesus cover them up for him. (2) So long as we try to cover up our sins and will not confess them to God, we will be in misery like David. His conscience continually troubled him, he felt God's heavy hand of judgment resting upon him. His moisture, that is, his life's vigor withered away like a plant before the drought of summer. (3) Finally He acknowledged his sins unto God, and openly confessed them. He threw the whole burden of sin upon God, and he found relief. (4) Because God pardoned his sins and covered them up for ever, therefore he is happy now. (5) He would advise everybody to do as he did, for God will pardon them and preserve them from trouble. (6) Emphasize how hopeless the condition of the wicked is. Their sins will crush them down to eternal damnation. (7) Certainly those who have received forgiveness and are the children of God, have reason to rejoice and shout for joy. The Lord shall compass them about with His mercy. (8) Point out that this is the way that David felt. (11) The least that God can expect of us in order to pardon our sins is, that we acknowledge and confess them. And God can not forgive those who do not confess and seek forgiveness, because they thereby show that they do not desire forgiveness. (14) God grants full pardon, and continuous so long as we remain true to Him. Apply Memory Verse.

LESSON XXXI.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ps. 32:1.—Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.



THE SONG OF FORGIVENESS.

MEMORY VERSE.

Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come. (53:1.)

LESSON XXXII.

GOLDEN TEXT.

2 Kings 4:34-35.—Elisha prayed to the Lord, stretched himself upon the dead child, and the child opened his eyes.



ELISHA RAISING THE CHILD.

MEMORY VERSE.

O happy day when we shall stand  
Amid the heavenly throng,  
And sing with hosts from every land  
The new celestial song,  
The new celestial song. (149a:1.)



THE THIRD ARTICLE (7). RESURRECTION.

I believe that I cannot of my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith.

Even as He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives me and all believers all our sins;

And at the last day will raise up me and all the dead, and will grant me and all believers in Christ everlasting life. This is most certainly true.

BIBLE TEXTS.

Luke 23:43.—Verily, I say unto thee: Today thou shalt be with me in Paradise.

Rev. 14:13.—Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth.

ELISHA AND THE CHILD.

One day when the prophet Elisha was travelling he came to a city called Shunem. Here lived a rich woman, and she asked him to come to her house.

She had no children, and when Elisha asked God to give her a child, He gave her a son.

One morning when the boy was about 10 years old, he went to the harvest field to see his father. While he was in the field, he became very sick and cried out: My head, my head. His father sent him home with a servant, but at noon he died in his mother's arms.

She then carried the boy to Elisha's room, and laid him on his bed. She hurried away and found Elisha and told him her sorrow. Elisha sent his servant to lay his staff on the face of the child, but that did not help any. Meanwhile the woman begged Elisha to come with her. This he did, and when they came to the house, Elisha went to his room, shut the door and prayed to God, and at last the boy came to life. 2 Kings 4:8-37.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What did the prophet Elisha do according to our Golden Text?*
2. *What did the child's mother do when the child died?*
3. *Whom did Elisha send to awaken the child?*
4. *How did Elisha awaken the child?*
5. *Where did the child's soul go when the child died?*
6. *Give a Bible Text to prove that the believer's soul goes to heaven at death.*
7. *What does therefore our second Bible Text say about those who die in the Lord?*
8. *Why does not the child of God need to fear death? Death is a friend that opens the gates of Paradise for him.*
9. *Who are not blessed when they die and have reason to fear death?*
10. *When shall all the dead be raised?*
11. *Who is to come and raise all the dead?*
12. *With what kind of body shall the believers rise? With a glorified body like Jesus' body after resurrection.*
13. *What will Jesus grant all His believers at resurrection?*
14. *What will be the fate of the unbelievers?*
15. *How, then, can you obtain everlasting life when you die?*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read 2 Kings 4:8-37. Tell about the prophet Elisha visiting with a good man and his wife in Shunem, how they made an extra room for him and did everything possible to make it comfortable for him. They had no children and he promised that God would give them a child. (3) When the little boy became suddenly ill and died, his mother immediately went to Elisha and urged him to come and awaken him. (5) Emphasize what a comfort to know that all believers go to heaven when they die, and how this takes away the fear of death for the child of God. (6) How sad to believe as the Catholics, that the soul of all people go to Purgatory to suffer for a longer or shorter period of time in order to be cleansed and made ready for heaven. Jesus told the penitent robber that he should go with Him to Paradise that very day. (8) Jesus looks upon the death of His children as a falling asleep, and even says of them that they sleep. Tell what He said about Jairus' daughter, Mark 5:39. "Asleep in Jesus! O how sweet to be for such a slumber meet." (9) Emphasize how awful it must be to think of death and much more so to face death for the unbelievers. (13) Apply Memory Verse. (14) The unbelievers will have good reason to fear Christ's second coming, for He then comes to judge them. And the awful judgment they shall hear is: Depart from me, ye cursed. into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

## PART III. THE LORD'S PRAYER

LESSON XXXIII.

PRAYER.

Our Father Who art in heaven.

*What is meant by this?*

God would hereby tenderly invite us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that we may ask of Him with all cheerfulness and confidence, as dear children ask of their dear father.

BIBLE TEXT.

John 16:23.—Verily, verily, I say unto you: Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He shall give you.

### ABRAHAM PRAYS FOR SODOM.

In lesson 29 we heard how the Lord and two angels came to visit Abraham. When they rose to leave the Lord said: I will destroy Sodom; for its sins are grievous. Abraham said: Perhaps there be fifty righteous within the city, wilt Thou not spare it for the sake of these? The Lord answered: If I find 50 righteous, I will not consume it. Abraham said: Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, who am but dust and ashes; perhaps there shall lack five of the fifty, wilt Thou destroy the whole city for lack of five? And Abraham continued to pray, until he came down to ten, and the Lord promised to spare the city if He could find ten righteous in it.

Meanwhile the two angels came to Sodom and brought Lot and his wife and his two daughters out of the city. And one of the angels said: Look not behind thee; escape to the mountain. But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. Then the Lord rained fire from heaven, and the fertile plain where Sodom and Gomorrah lay became the Dead Sea. — Thus it appeared that there were not ten righteous in Sodom. Gen. 18.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *When is the Lord near to us according to our Golden Text?*
2. *How must we call upon Him?*
3. *Whom was God near to in our Bible Story?*
4. *What did God threaten to do?*
5. *What did Abraham ask of God?*
6. *What does Abraham say about himself?*
7. *When does God want you to pray to Him?*
8. *When does Jesus teach us to call God in the Lord's Prayer?*
9. *How cheerfully can we then speak to God?*
10. *Who has given us right to call God Father? Jesus.*
11. *Who alone has a right to call God Father? Those who are His children.*
12. *In whose name does Jesus say we should pray? See Bible Text.*
13. *What does He then promise us?*
14. *How should you feel when speaking to God? As humble as Abraham.*
15. *Give your morning and evening prayers.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Gen. 18:16—19:26. Review briefly the story of Abraham and Lot coming to Canaan, and how Lot chose the valley of the Jordan river for his pasture. Here were situated the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, that God threatened to destroy. (1) The Lord is so near at all times that He can hear all earnest prayers. Recall the story of the Baal priests and Elijah. (2) Our prayers must be true and sincere, like those of a child begging its mother for something. Reading the Lord's Prayer as fast as we can, is no prayer, but mocking God. (5) Note how earnestly Abraham prayed for these wicked people, and how far God went to answer his prayer. So likewise we should pray for wicked people, yes even if they have harmed us, and God will go to the uttermost to answer our prayer. (7) Nothing would please God more than to have all people pray to Him. Therefore He sent His Son to save all. (9) What a privilege to come to the Holy God and speak as cheerfully as a child can speak to his father on earth. (10) Jesus has made us friends again with God by redeeming us, so God can not refuse to listen to us when we call Him Father now, and answer our prayers. (11) The child of the devil has no right to call God Father, and God will not listen to him before he acknowledges his sins and repents, as the prodigal son did. (12) Heaven is like a bank full of money. God is the banker, and if I come with an order signed by Jesus' name, I can get all I ask for.

LESSON XXXIII.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ps. 145:18.—The Lord is nigh unto all that call upon Him,  
to all that call upon Him in truth.



SODOM DESTROYED.

MORNING PRAYER.

Now the shades of night are gone,  
Now the morning light is come;  
Lord, may I be Thine today,  
Drive the shades of sin away. (L. H. 540:1.)

EVENING PRAYER.

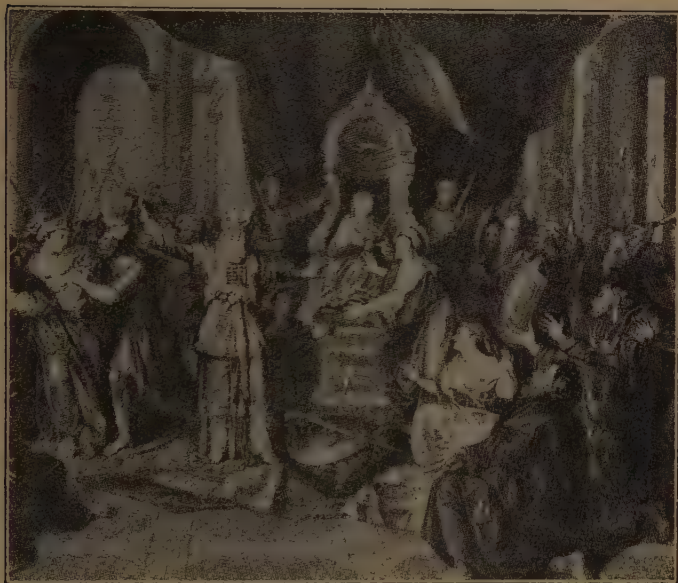
Forgive me, Lord, for Thy dear Son,  
The ills that I this day have done;  
That with the world, myself and Thee,  
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be. (L. H. 560:2.)



LESSON XXXIV.

GOLDEN TEXT.

2 Chron. 24:2.—And Joash did that which was right in the sight of God.



JOASH PROCLAIMED KING.

MEMORY VERSE.

All hallowed be Thy name, O Lord!  
O let us firmly keep Thy Word,  
And lead, according to Thy name,  
A holy life, untouched by blame;  
Let no false teachings do us hurt—  
All poor deluded souls convert. (49:2.)

THE FIRST PETITION.

Hallowed be Thy Name.

*What is meant by this?*

The name of God is indeed holy in itself; but we pray in this petition that it may be hallowed also among us.

*How is this done?*

When the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity and we as the children of God lead holy lives, in accordance with it. This grant us, dear Father in heaven. But he that teaches and lives otherwise than the Word of God teaches, profanes the Name of God among us. From this prevent us, heavenly Father.

BIBLE TEXTS.

Matt. 5:16.—Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

John 17:17.—Sanctify them through Thy truth, Thy Word is truth.

KING JOASH.

When Ahaziah, the king of Jerusalem died, his wicked mother Athalia made herself the ruler of the people, and ordered all the king's sons to be killed. But the wife of the high priest Jehoiada, an aunt of these princes, hid one of the boys by the name Joash in the temple 6 years so that he was not killed.

When Joash was 7 years old, Jehoiada called the people together and Joash was proclaimed king, and his wicked grandmother Athalia was killed. Joash was a good king, so long as Jehoiada lived. He repaired the temple that had been almost destroyed and bought new vessels for it and sacrificed there to God.

But when Jehoiada died, wicked princes influenced Joash to leave God and serve idols. God sent a son of Jehoiada to speak to the king and people. But Joash became angry and caused him to be killed. The same year a heathen king came to Jerusalem and carried away many people, and Joash was killed.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What is said about King Joash in our Golden Text?*
2. *What did he do according to the first Petition? He hallowed God's name.*
3. *What did he do to hallow God's name?*
4. *What is said about his grandmother?*
5. *What was she therefore doing according to the first Petition?*
6. *How did Joash in old age profane God's name?*
7. *How was he punished?*
8. *How must pastors and teachers teach in order to hallow God's name?*
9. *What kind of life must we all lead to hallow God's name?*
10. *What does Jesus want us to do in our first Bible Text?*
11. *What will our good works lead others to do?*
12. *Who must help us to hallow God's name?*
13. *What does Jesus say about this in our second Bible Text?*
14. *When do pastors and teachers profane God's name?*
15. *If you live otherwise than the Word of God teaches, what will you do?*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read 2 Chron. 22-24. Tell how the little boy Joash was saved by his aunt, the wife of the good priest Jehoiada, from being killed by his wicked grandmother, and how Jehoiada made Joash king. (1) Nothing more beautiful can be said about any one of us than what is said about king Joash, and we are richly blessed so long as we serve God. (5) "Profane" means to dishonor God's name, just as a wicked boy brings shame and dishonor upon his father's name. No one can profane God's name and be blessed. This woman was killed for her wickedness. Tell about the prodigal son. (6) Joash let himself be led astray by wicked people. Emphasize how tempting it is for all of us to be led astray by wicked companions to profane God's name. (7) Because Joash left God, God left him, and therefore punishment followed. (8) We should be thankful to God that we have parents and pastors and teachers who teach the Word of God to us in its truth and purity. (9) But if we are to hallow God's name, we must live according to the Word of God. (10) Our good works should shine like bright lights before people. (11) Then those who know us will say of us as is said of Joash, and they will be led to glorify God, who has such good children. (13) "Sanctify" means to help us become holy, so we can hallow God's name. This alone God can do, and He does it through His Word. Therefore we pray as we do in our Memory Verse. (15) Whenever we do anything wrong, we bring shame upon God's name, and this we should daily pray God to preserve us from.

THE SECOND PETITION.

Thy Kingdom come.

*What is meant by this?*

The Kingdom of God comes indeed of itself, without our prayer; but we pray in this petition that it may come also to us.

*How is this done?*

When our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and live godly, here in time, and in heaven forever.

BIBLE TEXTS.

Matt. 20:4.—Go ye also into my vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.

Matt. 9:38.—Pray ye therefore that the Lord of the harvest will send laborers into His vineyard.

DAVID BECOMES KING.

After Saul was dead, David was made king, and he reigned for 40 years. He captured Jerusalem and made this city the capital, and then he and the whole house of Israel brought the Ark of the Covenant thither with shouts of joy and sound of trumpets. He executed judgment and justice to the whole people, and he remembered Jonathan, and said to his son: I restore to thee all the lands of Saul, and thou shalt eat at my table. He was the light and the sweetest singer of Israel, and composed many beautiful psalms, which are found in the Book of Psalms in the Bible, and speaks in many of these of the Messiah, or the Savior who was to come. He subdued the nations round about and was very powerful. 2 Sam. 2-9.

King David was a type of Christ, the King of Kings, and speaks beautifully of Him in Psalm 110:

The Lord saith unto my Lord: Sit Thou at my right hand, until I make Thy enemies Thy footstool. Rule Thou in the midst of Thy enemy. Thy people offer themselves willingly in the day of Thy power, and Thy youth come unto Thee in holy array.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *Who is hailed King in our Golden Text? Jesus.*
2. *Whose son is He said to be?*
3. *Of whom was David as king a picture? Jesus as King.*
4. *What kind of a king was David?*
5. *What did he do to all nations around him?*
6. *What shall Jesus do to all nations? All kings and nations shall in time bow before Him.*
7. *When did Jesus establish His Kingdom on earth? When He came to this earth.*
8. *What kind of a King is Jesus?*
9. *How can we become members of His Kingdom? See second Petition.*
10. *What must the Holy Spirit help us to believe?*
11. *What must He help us to do?*
12. *What does Jesus mean by "vineyard" in our first Bible Text? His Kingdom.*
13. *What does He promise those who go into His vineyard?*
14. *What does Jesus ask of us in the second Bible Text?*
15. *What does He mean by "harvest"? Winning people into His Kingdom.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

(1) Ask pupils when these words were spoken about Jesus, and let them tell something about it. Read Ps. 72 to the class. It speaks about Christ's kingdom, and what kind of a king He shall be. (4) David was a righteous and Godfearing king, and believed in the coming Savior, and wrote many beautiful Psalms about Him and His Kingdom. See Psalms 2, 93 and 110. (6) Repeat what is said in Ps. 72 about the different nations. (7) Jesus' Kingdom is not of the earth, like David's, but His is a spiritual kingdom. Ps. 72 tells also what kind of a King Jesus is. We ought to rejoice that we have such a King. (9) It is in His Word that Jesus speaks about Himself and His Kingdom. To come into His Kingdom, we must believe in Jesus as our Savior and King, and the one who must help us to believe, is the Holy Spirit. Let pupils give what the Third Article says about this. (11) The Holy Spirit must also help us to live according to the Word, hallow God's name by a godly life. (12) Note that Jesus is anxious to have all people come into His Kingdom. (13) And certainly He is rich enough and powerful enough to abundantly bless us, care for us and protect us. What a pity that so many people do not care to have Jesus for King, but would rather have the devil for king. (14) Jesus is so anxious to get people into His Kingdom that He asks us to pray God to send out pastors and missionaries to win people for His Kingdom. Let pupils tell what they can do to win people for Christ. Apply Memory Verse, and explain.



LESSON XXXV.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Matt. 21:9.—Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.



DAVID, KING OF ISRAEL.

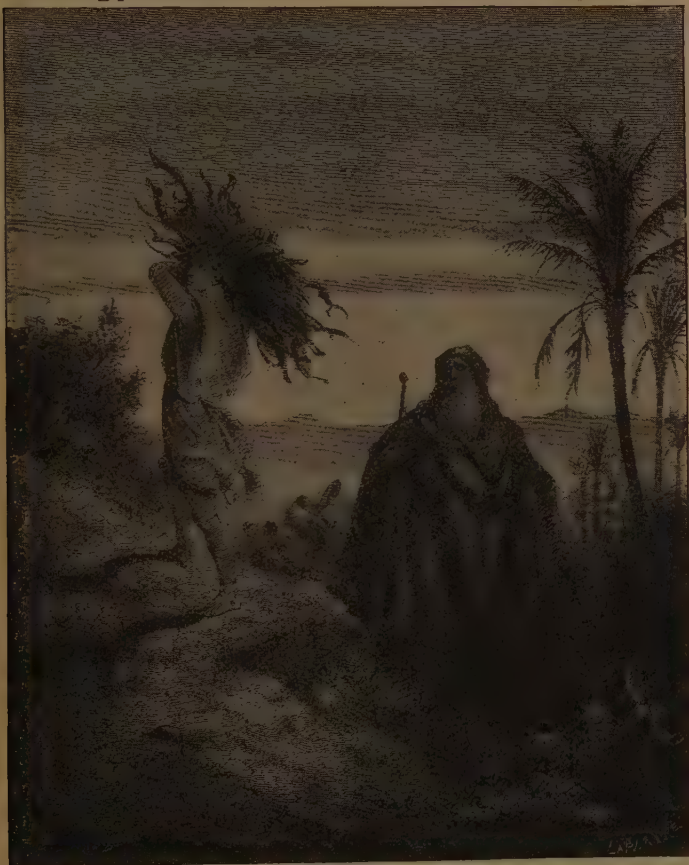
MEMORY VERSE.

Thy Kingdom come! Thine let it be  
In time and through eternity!  
O let Thy Holy Spirit dwell  
With us, to rule and guide us well;  
From Satan's mighty power and rage  
Preserve Thy Church from age to age. (49:3.)

LESSON XXXVI.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Gen. 22:16-17.—Because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son, from me, I will exceedingly bless thee.



ABRAHAM GOES TO SACRIFICE ISAAC.

MEMORY VERSE.

Thy will be done on earth, O Lord,  
As where in Heaven Thou art adored!  
Patience in time of grief bestow,  
Obedience true in weal and woe;  
Our sinful flesh and blood control  
That thwart Thy will within the soul. (49:4.)

## THE THIRD PETITION.

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

*What is meant by this?*

The good and gracious will of God is done indeed without our prayer; but we pray in this petition that it may be done also among us.

*How is this done?*

When God defeats and hinders every evil counsel and purpose, which would not let us hallow God's, name nor let His Kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, the world, and our own flesh; but strengthens and keeps us steadfast in His Word and faith unto our end. This is His gracious and good will.

## BIBLE TEXTS.

Luke 22:42.—Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but Thine, be done.

1 Thess. 4:3.—This is the will of God, even your sanctification.

## ABRAHAM'S TRIAL.

God gave Abraham and Sarah a son as He promised them, and they called him Isaac.

Some years after this God wanted to try Abraham's faith and said: Take now thy son Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him on one of the mountains which I will tell thee. Abraham rose early in the morning, took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son. When they came to the place, Abraham built an altar, laid the wood in order, bound Isaac, and laid him upon the wood. And he stretched forth his hand to offer his son. Then the Lord called unto him out of heaven and said: Abraham! Abraham! Lay not thy hand upon the lad, for now I know that thou fearest God. Abraham beheld a ram, caught in the thicket by his horns. And he took the ram and offered him in stead of his son. Then God said: Because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, I will exceedingly bless thee. Gen. 22.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What does God promise Abraham in our Golden Text?*
2. *What did God ask Abraham to do?*
3. *Why was it especially hard for Abraham to do God's will?*  
*He could not understand why God asked what he did.*
4. *Why did God tell him to sacrifice his son? To try his faith.*
5. *How did Abraham show that he was willing to obey God?*
6. *If God asks us to do something that we do not like, what shall we do?*
7. *What does Jesus teach us in His prayer in Gethsemane?*  
*See first Bible Text.*
8. *What is the good and gracious will of God in the first and second Petitions?*
9. *Give a Bible Text that explains the same. See last Bible Text.*
10. *Who try to keep us from doing God's will?*
11. *What do you ask God to do to these enemies?*
12. *Wherein does God give you strength to resist these enemies? In His Word.*
13. *In what must God then keep you steadfast?*
14. *How long will He have to do this?*
15. *What does God promise you if you do His will? What He promised Abraham.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Gen. 22. Review briefly how God came and visited Abraham and promised him a son, and gave many beautiful promises regarding his son and how the Savior should be born in his family. (3) Abraham had only his son, and he could not see how God could fulfill His promises if he was to sacrifice his son. (4) God wanted to try Abraham if he would trust God to fulfill His promises. (5) Abraham was willing to do as God told him, even if he could not see why he should do it. (6) Emphasize that there are many things that God asks us to give up, like bad company, bad habits, bad thoughts. (8) God's will with everybody is, that they may come into His Kingdom and hallow His name. (9) "Sanctification" means that we grow in holiness of life according to the Word of God. (10) Point out how the devil, the world and our own flesh try to keep us from doing God's will. The devil puts evil thoughts into our heart, the world coaxes us to do evil, and our sinful heart hates to do God's will, and is always inclined to do contrary to His will. (12) As our Petition says and as Jesus says, God must sanctify us through His Word. Therefore we pray as we do in our Memory Verse. (13) The devil would gladly make us lose faith in God's Word, therefore God must keep us steadfast in His word, and a living faith in Him. (15) This God must keep up till the end of our life.

THE FOURTH PETITION.

Give us this day our daily bread.

*What is meant by this?*

God gives daily bread indeed without our prayer, even to all the wicked; but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to acknowledge this and receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

*What is meant by daily bread?*

All that belongs to the wants and support of the body, such as meat, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, cattle, money, goods, a pious spouse, pious children, pious servants, pious and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, order, honor, true friends, good neighbors and the like.

BIBLE TEXTS.

Gen. 3:19.—In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat thy bread.

Prov. 30:8.—Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me.

JACOB MOVES TO EGYPT.

In lesson 7 we heard how Joseph sent for his father to come to Egypt. The Lord spoke to Jacob in a vision, saying: Fear not to go down to Egypt, for I will be with thee, and bring thee up again, and Joseph shall close thine eyes. And Jacob moved down to Egypt with his whole family, 70 souls, and all that he had. When Joseph heard of his coming he made ready his chariot, and went up to meet him in Goshen. And he fell on his father's neck and wept a good while. Jacob said: Now let me die, since I have seen that thou art yet alive.—On Pharaoh's command Joseph gave unto his father Goshen to dwell in, for in Goshen were good pastures, and Jacob and his sons were shepherds.—Jacob lived in Egypt 17 years, and became 147 years old. Gen. 46-47.



## QUESTIONS.

1. *Why is the Lord called a Shepherd in our Golden Text?*
2. *How did God save Jacob and his people from want when the famine came?*
3. *Who invited Jacob to come to Egypt?*
4. *What land did Pharaoh give them to live in?*
5. *Who supplies all our wants?*
6. *In what Article is this mentioned?*
7. *How does God give us our daily bread?*
8. *How does our first Bible Text express this?*
9. *Why then ask God to "give us our daily bread?" He must give us strength to work, and bless our work.*
10. *Why say give "us"? We should be interested in each other's welfare.*
11. *Why say "daily" bread? We should be satisfied with what God gives us.*
12. *Give a Bible Text that expresses this beautifully.*
13. *Give some things included in daily bread.*
14. *How do the wicked receive their daily bread? Without thanksgiving.*
15. *How should we receive our daily bread?*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Gen. 46-47. Ask pupils to tell how Joseph came to Egypt, and how his brothers happened to find him there. Joseph's brothers meant evil to Joseph, but God turned it to the good. Joseph came to Egypt and prepared a place for Jacob and his people when the famine came. (6) Let pupils give the First Article, and show how this expresses just what we pray for in this Petition. (7) Emphasize that it is God's will that all people who are able, shall work, and that we should enjoy to work, and not be lazy. God says that he who will not work, shall neither eat. Note "our bread," in opposition to others' bread. (8) This was God's command to Adam after he had sinned. (9) Just think what would happen if our parents got sick and could not work for a long time. What would happen if God did not send rain to the farmer, or if He sends a storm when his field is ready for harvest? Fire can destroy our property and thieves can steal our money and goods. (10) If we pray "give us," we will also think of the poor and help them get what we pray for. (12) How nice if we all could say this from our heart to God. We should not worry, but leave all to God, as the little child leaves all to its parents to take care of it. (14) Emphasize that the wicked have no reason to expect anything good from God, and ought to be especially thankful to Him for what they receive. (15) God is under obligations to care for us, but nevertheless, we should ask His blessing and give Him thanks. Emphasize saying grace at meals, and let children give their prayers.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ps. 23:1.—The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.



JOSEPH RECEIVES HIS FATHER IN EGYPT.

GRACE BEFORE MEAT.

O Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and bless these Thy gifts which we receive from Thy loving kindness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GRACE AFTER MEAT.

We thank Thee, Lord God, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for all Thy benefits, who liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. Amen.

LESSON XXXVIII.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Gen. 32:11.—Deliver me, I pray Thee, from the hand of my brother Esau.



JACOB WRESTLING WITH THE ANGEL.

MEMORY VERSE.

Forgive our sins, that they no more  
May grieve and haunt us as before,  
As we forgive their trespasses  
Who unto us have done amiss;  
Thus let us dwell in charity,  
And serve each other willingly. (49:6.)

THE FIFTH PETITION.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

*What is meant by this?*

We pray in this Petition that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins, nor, on account of them, deny our prayer; for we are not worthy of anything we ask, neither have we deserved it; but we pray that He would grant us all through grace; for we sin much every day and deserve nothing but punishment. And we on our part will heartily forgive and readily do good to those who sin against us.

BIBLE TEXTS.

Luke 6:37.—Condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned; forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.

Mark 11:26.—If ye do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive you your trespasses.

JACOB MEETS ESAU.

When Jacob saw that Laban became envious of him he went away with his wives and children and all that he had. When he drew near to Canaan, he sent messengers to Esau to find favor in his sight. The messengers returned and said: Thy brother comes to meet thee with 400 men. Then Jacob was greatly afraid, and he sent a present from his herds and flocks to Esau, and prayed earnestly to the Lord. And the Lord appeared unto him as a man that wrestled with him. But Jacob held out manfully, and said: I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me. God blessed him, and called him Israel, that is: one who strives with God.

When Jacob saw Esau, he bowed himself seven times to the ground; but Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and kissed him, and they both wept.—Isaac was 180 years, and he died old and full of days, and Esau and Jacob buried him. Gen. 32-33.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *Why did Jacob pray the prayer in our Golden Text?*
2. *Why was Esau angry at Jacob?*
3. *How did Jacob win Esau's favor?*
4. *How did they now meet?*
5. *Who came to wrestle with Jacob?*
6. *What did Jacob demand of the Lord?*
7. *How have we asked God to bless us in each of the first four Petitions?*
8. *Why have we not deserved what we have asked for here?*
9. *What have we rather deserved?*
10. *What then do we ask God to do in the Fifth Petition?*
11. *Why can and will God forgive our sins?*
12. *Why do we need daily forgiveness?*
13. *In what Article is this spoken of?*
14. *What do we promise to do to those who sin against us?*
15. *Why must you always do what Jesus tells you in our first Bible Text? See second Bible Text.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Gen. 32-33. Let pupils tell how Jacob cheated his brother twice and had to flee to his uncle, where he staid twenty years. When his uncle became jealous of him because God richly blessed him, Jacob decided to return home to his father. (3) Gen. 32:14-15 mentions the presents Jacob sent Esau. Note also from 33:9, that Esau's heart was so moved by the kindness of Jacob that he refused to take the presents, but to show how anxious he was to make up, Jacob insisted that he should keep the presents, and he did. (5) God wrestling with Jacob is like our conscience contending with us when we have done wrong. (6) Note that the Lord also gave Jacob a new name. If we persist in our prayer with God to pardon our sins, He will also change our name from "sinner" to "child of God." (7) Review briefly what we have asked for in the first four Petitions. In the first three we ask for spiritual blessings, in the fourth we ask for temporal blessings. (8) When we have asked for so many blessings, it will lead us to think like Abraham: I am nothing in God's sight. Perhaps my sins are so many that God can not give me what I have asked for. Therefore I must ask Him to pardon my sins before I go any further. (11) Ask pupils what Article speaks about Christ's atonement. (15) Emphasize the beauty and blessing of having a charitable and forgiving disposition. It commands the love of God and the admiration of fellow men. This is also emphasized in our Memory Verse. Let someone give it.



## THE SIXTH PETITION.

And lead us not into temptation.

*What is meant by this?*

God indeed tempts no one; but we pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us, that the devil, the world and our flesh may not deceive us, nor lead us into misbelief, despair and other shameful sin and vice; and, though we be thus tempted, that we may still in the end overcome and hold the victory.

## BIBLE TEXTS.

Prov. 1:10.—My son, if sinners entice thee, consent not.

Matt. 26:41.—Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.

## JOB.

Job was the name of a God-fearing man who had seven sons and three daughters, and was the richest of all the men of the East. To try his faith, God permitted the devil to bring great misfortune to Job. Wicked people robbed him of all his cattle and property, and all his children were killed in a storm. When Job heard this, he rent his robe, but worshipped God and said: The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord. Finally Job himself was troubled with a bad disease. Then his wife asked: Do you yet believe in God? Job answered: Shall we receive good from God and no evil?

Three of Job's friends, hearing of his misfortunes, came to console him. But their words were harsh, for they thought that he must be a greater sinner than other men, since God sent greater afflictions upon him than on others. Then Job sinned; for he boasted of his perfection and disputed God's righteousness. But when the Lord spoke to him, he repented, and God forgave him, and reproved his three friends because they had judged Job harshly.

God blessed Job: he was healed again, and got twice as much riches as before. Book of Job.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *When did Job speak the Words in our Golden Text?*
2. *What had the Lord given him?*
3. *Whom did the Lord permit to tempt him and take it away from him? The devil.*
4. *Who tempts us according to the sixth Petition?*
5. *What would they lead us into?*
6. *To what did Job's wife tempt him? To misbelief.*
7. *What did Job answer her?*
8. *To what did Job's three friends tempt? To despair.*
9. *What does our first Bible Text tell you to do when tempted?*
10. *What finally tempted Job to sin? His evil nature.*
11. *How did it tempt him? To boast of his perfection, and to dispute with God.*
12. *When Job confessed his sins, what did God do?*
13. *What does Jesus urge you to do in the second Bible Text?*
14. *What do we ask God help us to in the sixth Petition?*
15. *What weapon has God given us to fight with? His Word.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Job 1:3-42. Point out how Job came to be tempted. The devil came to God and told Him that if He took His blessings away from Job, he would no longer fear Him, but curse Him. God therefore permitted the devil to tempt Job by destroying all that he had and by striking him with an awful disease. (5) The devil led Adam and Eve into misbelief, Judas into despair, David into shameful sin and vice. (6) Note how the devil can use even our nearest friends to tempt us into sin. And wicked people are always ready to coax us into sin, and make fun of us if we refuse. (9) This reminds us of Joseph when tempted to sin. What did he say? (10) Emphasize what an awful enemy we have in our own flesh. Not only does it hate to do right and love to do wrong, but it is always ready to say "yes" to every temptation of the devil and the wicked world. (13) How much easier it is to meet danger when we are watching for it, than if it comes unexpected. So also with temptations. If we watch, we will also pray to be protected by the Lord. This we do in our Memory Verse. Let someone recite it. (14) God will often let temptations come to us as He did to Job, in order to try our faith and to strengthen our faith. Then it is necessary to ask God help us to overcome and hold the victory. And God has promised not to let us be tempted more than He gives us strength to bear. (15) The weapon Jesus used when tempted was the Word of God, and that shall be our weapon and strength.

LESSON XXXIX.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Job 1:21.—The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken;  
blessed be the name of the Lord.



JOB'S FRIENDS CONSOLE HIM.

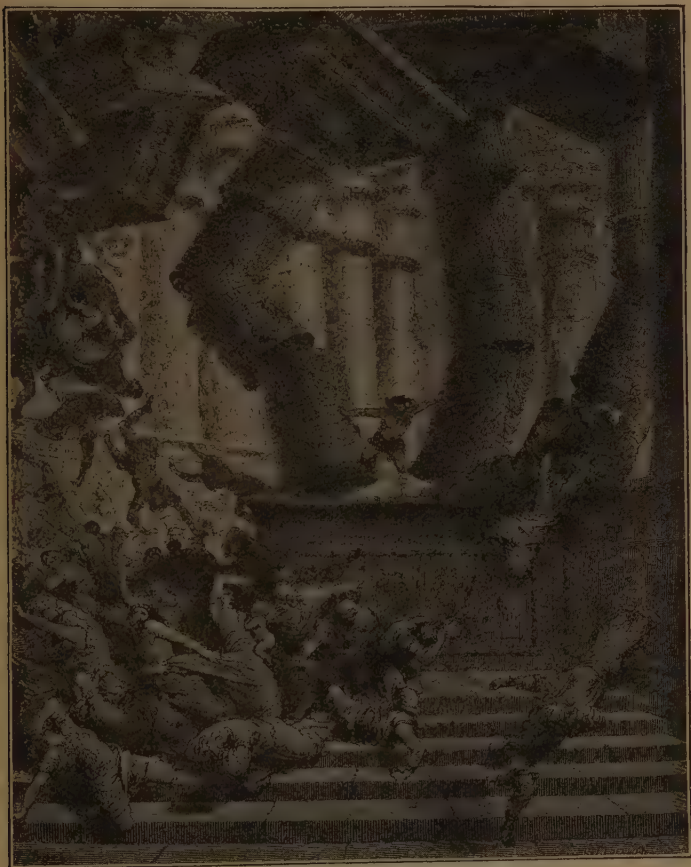
MEMORY VERSE.

Into temptation lead us not,  
And when the foe doth war and plot  
Against our souls on every hand,  
Then armed with faith, Oh, may we stand  
Against him as a valiant host  
Through comfort of the Holy Ghost. (49:7.)

LESSON XL.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Judges 6:14.—Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites.



SAMSON PULLING DOWN THE TEMPLE.

MEMORY VERSE.

Deliverance from all evil give,  
For yet in evil days we live;  
Redeem us from eternal death,  
And when we yield our dying breath,  
Console us, grant us calm release,  
And take our souls to Thee in peace. (49:8.)

THE SEVENTH PETITION.

But deliver us from evil.

*What is meant by this?*

We pray in this petition, as the sum of all, that our Father in heaven would deliver us from all manner of evil in body and soul, property and honor, and at last, when the hour of death shall come, grant us a blessed end and graciously take us from this vale of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

BIBLE TEXTS.

Ps. 121:7.—The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil.

Heb. 13:5.—I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.

Heb. 13:6.—The Lord is my helper, and I shall not fear what man shall do unto me.

GIDEON. JEPHTHAH. SAMSON.

When the Israelites began to serve strange gods, the Lord became angry and gave them into the hands of the heathen. They then cried unto the Lord, and he raised up judges to save them.

One of these judges was Gideon. The hand of the Midianites rested heavily on Israel. Gideon chose 300 men, and at midnight he went with them to the camp of the Midianites, and they cried and fled.

Another judge was Jephthah. He made a vow to sacrifice the Lord the first that came to meet him from his house, when he returned with victory. He came home victorious, and his daughter, his only child, came out to meet him. Jephthah rent his garments, but did to her according to his promise.

When the Philistines oppressed the Israelites, the Lord sent them a deliverer in Samson. But he was deluded by a woman called Delilah, and captured by the Philistines, who put out his eyes and set him to grind corn. Once when they were assembled to a great feast in the temple of their god, they brought out Samson to make sport for them. Samson prayed to the Lord, laid hold on the two middle pillars of the temple and bowed himself with might. The temple fell and buried both Samson and his enemies.



## QUESTIONS.

1. *To whom did the angel speak the Words in our Golden Text? To Gideon.*
2. *From whom should he save Israel?*
3. *Why did God permit the Midianites to oppress Israel?*
4. *Tell how Gideon saved his people.*
5. *What rash promise did Jephthah make?*
6. *How was he punished?*
7. *Who delivered Israel from the Philistines?*
8. *How was Samson deceived?*
9. *From what evil do you ask God to deliver you in the seventh Petition?*
10. *Mention some evil that may come upon your body. Accidents or sickness.*
11. *Mention some evil that can come upon your soul. Shameful sin, misbelief, despair.*
12. *Mention some evil that may come upon your property. Destruction and robbery.*
13. *How can your honor be hurt? People may lie about me.*
14. *What does the Lord promise you in the first two Bible Texts?*
15. *What can you therefore say? See last Bible Text.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Judges 2; 6; 11; 16. Note in chapter 2 how the people turned away from God to serve heathen idols when Joshua died. To punish them God permitted heathen tribes round about them to overrun their land, destroy their crops, rob their cattle and kill the people. When conditions became too bad, they cried to God for deliverance, and He in His mercy sent judges to save them. (3) Chapter 6 tells how the Midianites ravaged the country, and how the people cried to God for deliverance. (5) It was a common thing for the heathen to sacrifice people, and so Jephthah thought he would please God by making such a promise. (6) But God made it clear to Jephthah and all the people that He despised human sacrifice, by sending Jephthah's own daughter to meet him. (7) The teacher should know the whole life of Samson as told in chapters 13-16. Children will enjoy to hear it told. (8) Samson permitted evil to come upon himself both to body and soul, by not watching and praying against temptation. (10) Emphasize that God sometimes permits evil to come upon our property and body in order to punish us, when we are tempted to leave Him and serve idols. These visitations then become friends that drive us back to God. A big dog may scare a disobedient child back to his mother's arms. So may these evils do to us when disobedient to God. (14) Because God is faithful, therefore we can pray as we do in our Memory Verse. Apply it.

## LESSON XLI.

### ANSWER TO PRAYER.

**For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*What does Amen mean?*

I should be sure that these petitions are acceptable to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us so to pray and has promised to hear us. Amen, Amen, that is, yea, yea, it shall be so.

### BIBLE TEXTS.

Eph. 3:20.—God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.

Matt. 7:7.—Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

### GOD ANSWERS DANIEL'S PRAYER.

In lesson 12 we heard how wicked men got king Darius to pass a decree that if anyone prayed to any god except the king for thirty days, they should be thrown into the den of lions. Daniel did not fear the decree, but prayed three times a day on his knees before the open window, as he had done before.

These wicked men were glad when they found Daniel praying to God, and went and told the king about it.

The king was very sorry when he heard that Daniel had broken the decree, but he said to Daniel: Your God, whom you serve, will deliver you. Daniel was thrown into the den, but God delivered him. When the king called to Daniel the next morning, Daniel answered: My God sent His angel, who shut the lions' mouths, and they have not hurt me. The king was so glad because Daniel was saved that he passed a new decree that all the people in his kingdom should worship the God of Daniel. And the men who had accused Daniel were thrown into the den of lions and killed. Dan. 6.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What is said about Daniel in our Golden Text?*
2. *How often do you pray to God?*
3. *What did wicked men influence the king to decree?*
4. *What was to be done to those who broke the decree?*
5. *Why did Daniel dare to break it?*
6. *What did they then do to him?*
7. *How did God answer his prayers and deliver him?*
8. *How does Paul express God's ability to answer prayer?*  
*See first Bible Text.*
9. *What have we asked for in each of the seven Petitions?*
10. *What comfort does Jesus now give us in the second Bible Verse?*
11. *Why will and can God answer your prayer? His is the Kingdom and power.*
12. *Whose is the glory when He answers our prayers?*
13. *Why is the word Amen added to the Lord's Prayer?*
14. *What does the word Amen mean?*
15. *When God answers our prayers what should we do?*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Dan. 6. Tell how king Darius honored Daniel by making him chief president of the 120 princes in his kingdom. The other presidents together with the princes became jealous of David and tried to find some fault whereby they could accuse him, but failed. When their other plans failed, they decided to catch him on his faithfulness to God. (2) Emphasize the importance of praying at least morning and evening and at meals. (3) What a comfort to know that we have such a God to care for us. Even though it looks ever so dark, He can find a way out. (5) Most of us would have prayed to God in secret, but Daniel prayed before the open window. He had faith in God, and would not deny Him. (7) Note that even Darius believed that Daniel's God would be able to protect him. God did not protect the men who had accused Daniel. (9) Review briefly the seven Petitions, and emphasize that God can and will answer all of them when prayed earnestly. (10) In a three-fold way, Jesus here emphasizes that God will answer our prayers. (11) Because it is God's Kingdom we pray for in the Lord's Prayer, it is to God's honor that He answers our prayer. And He has the power as the almighty God to answer our prayers. (12) It is also to God's glory that He helps us do His will. He is to be glorified by us and through us. But all glory is His when He answers our prayers, because we can do nothing to answer them. (14) Also ask for and apply the Memory Verse in answer to this question.

LESSON XLI.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Lan. 6:10.—Daniel kneeled upon his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God.



DANIEL CAUGHT PRAYING TO GOD.

MEMORY VERSE.

Amen! that is, So let it be!  
Strengthen our faith and trust in Thee,  
That we may doubt not, but believe  
That what we ask we shall receive;  
Thus in Thy name and at Thy Word  
We say Amen; now hear us, Lord! (49:9.)

LESSON XLII.  
GOLDEN TEXT.

Gen. 17:10.—This is my covenant which ye shall keep between me and you and thy seed after thee: Every man child among you shall be circumcised.



GOD SPEAKS TO ABRAHAM.

MEMORY VERSE.

To Thy tender bosom we  
Once were laid and named for Thee,  
Signed with cross on brow and breast,  
Sprinkled and with prayer blest.  
In our heart the Spirit's dove  
Came to dwell with peace and love. (62:1.)



## PART IV. THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM.

### LESSON XLII.

#### BAPTISM.

##### *What is Baptism?*

Baptism is not simply water, but it is the water comprehended in God's command and connected with God's Word.

##### *What is that Word and Command of God?*

That which Christ, our Lord, says in the last chapter of Matthew:

“All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you.”

##### BIBLE TEXT.

Mark 10:14.—Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the Kingdom of God.

#### GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM.

When Abraham was 99 years old, God appeared unto him and said: I am the almighty God, walk before me, and be thou perfect. I will establish my covenant with thee to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. This is my covenant, which you shall keep between me and you and thy seed after thee: Every man child among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised. Every man child who is not circumcised shall be cut off from his people. He hath broken my covenant.

Abraham was glad to obey God, and he and his son Ishmael and all the men in his house were circumcised. A year later when Isaac was born, Abraham circumcised him also when he was eight days old, as the Lord had commanded him. Gen. 17.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What was the new covenant that God entered into with Abraham?*
2. *Who were to be circumcised?*
3. *When were they to be circumcised?*
4. *What was the blessing connected with circumcision? The child was brought into communion with God.*
5. *What was to be done to those who would not be circumcised?*
6. *What has taken the place of circumcision in the New Testament? Baptism.*
7. *What is Baptism?*
8. *To whom did Jesus give the command to baptize?*
9. *What was His command to the apostles?*
10. *What does it mean to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? The child enters into communion with God, as in circumcision.*
11. *Whom should the apostles baptize?*
12. *Why is it necessary to be baptized? In order to be saved.*
13. *Why do we baptize little children? They are born with sin, and need to be saved.*
14. *What does Jesus say about children in our Bible Text?*
15. *What were the apostles to teach those whom they baptized?*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Gen. 17. Review briefly the story of Abraham. God desired to start a new God-fearing people with Abraham. Therefore He enters into a new covenant with him. He wants to be the God of Abraham and his children after him, and to bless them, and they are to serve Him in loyal obedience. The way Abraham and his people and other people were to come into this covenant, or agreement, was by circumcision. (2) Baby girls and women were to be blessed through the covenant God made and entered into with Abraham and all men, just as all people were to be blessed in the man, Jesus Christ. (5) Those who would not be circumcised declared thereby that they did not want anything to do with God, and God would not have them among His people. (10) Through Baptism just as in circumcision, the child enters into a new covenant with God, and the child becomes His child. This is also emphasized in our Memory Verse. Apply it. (12) Those who refuse to be baptized reject and sin against Jesus who instituted Baptism. (13) Children were brought to God when they were only eight days old in the Old Testament. The sooner they could be brought to God the better for them. (14) Jesus especially invites little children to come unto Him, and says the Kingdom of God is theirs. (15) When children become old enough to understand, it is their parents' duty to teach them about God and send them to religious schools and to church.

LESSON XLIII.

THE BENEFIT OF BAPTISM.

*What benefits does Baptism confer?*

Baptism works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe what the words and promises of God declare.

*What are those words and promises of God?*

Those which Christ, our Lord, says in the last chapter of Mark:

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

BIBLE TEXT.

Acts 22:16.—Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

JOHN THE BAPTIST.

John the Baptist dwelt quietly in the desert till he was thirty years of age. Then came the word of the Lord to him, and he went to the river Jordan and began to preach: Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Even now the ax lieth at the root of the trees: every tree therefore that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire.

His manner of living was like that of the prophets of old: his raiment was of camel's hair and a leather girdle about his loins, and his food was locusts and wild honey. People both from Jerusalem and from the country came to him, and they were baptized by him, confessing their sins. Many believed that he was Christ; but he said: I am not Christ. I baptize only with water; but after me cometh one that is greater than I, the latchet of whose shoe I am not worthy to unloose. He shall baptize with the Holy Spirit. He is the Lamb of God that beareth the sins of the world. Matt. 3:1-11; John 1:19-29.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What is said about John the Baptist in our Golden Text?*
2. *Where did John preach and baptize?*
3. *What was the central thought in his preaching?*
4. *What did he ask people to do before he baptized them?*
5. *How did he compare himself with Christ?*
6. *How did he compare his baptism with Christ's baptism?*
7. *What does Baptism work according to our Catechism lesson?*
8. *What does our Bible Text say about this?*
9. *From what does Baptism deliver us?*
10. *Why can Baptism save us from sin, death and the devil?*  
*In Baptism we come into union with Jesus, who saved us from these evils.*
11. *What does Baptism therefore give us?*
12. *Who receives all these blessings in Baptism?*
13. *What are the words and promises of God?*
14. *What does Jesus say about those who do not believe?*
15. *How can little children believe? The Holy Spirit gives them faith in Baptism.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Luke 1:1-22; Matt. 3:1-12; John 1:19-29. Ask and tell about the angel who came to John's father telling him that he should have a son, and the great work he was to do. (3) John was to prepare the hearts of the people for accepting Jesus, and this could only be done by telling them of their sins. It is only the one who is sorry for his sins who cares for Jesus. (4) They confessed their sins, and through Baptism received forgiveness of their sins. (6) Because Jesus was so much greater than John, and because He was going to give the Holy Spirit in a special way, therefore John considers Jesus' Baptism so much greater than his. (7) Forgiveness of sins is the greatest benefit received in Baptism, because when sin is taken away the other blessings follow. (8) As water cleanses, so the water in Baptism cleanses our heart from sin. (9) Because Baptism washes away sin, death and the devil will lose their power over us. (10) Jesus has conquered sin and death and the devil. They have no power over Him, and if I am brought into union with Him, it follows that these enemies have lost their power over me. (11) Baptism is the door that opens into everlasting life. The blessings of this life are emphasized in the Memory Verse. (12) He who does not believe what is promised in Baptism certainly can not receive any blessing in Baptism. Only those who believe in the forgiveness of sins were baptized by John. (15) Jesus says that little children believe, and they can believe, because they permit the Holy Spirit to open their hearts for His gifts. See Matt. 18:6.

LESSON XLIII.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Mark 1:5.—And they came to him from Judea and Jerusalem and were all baptized of him, confessing their sins.



JOHN THE BAPTIST PREACHING.

MEMORY VERSE.

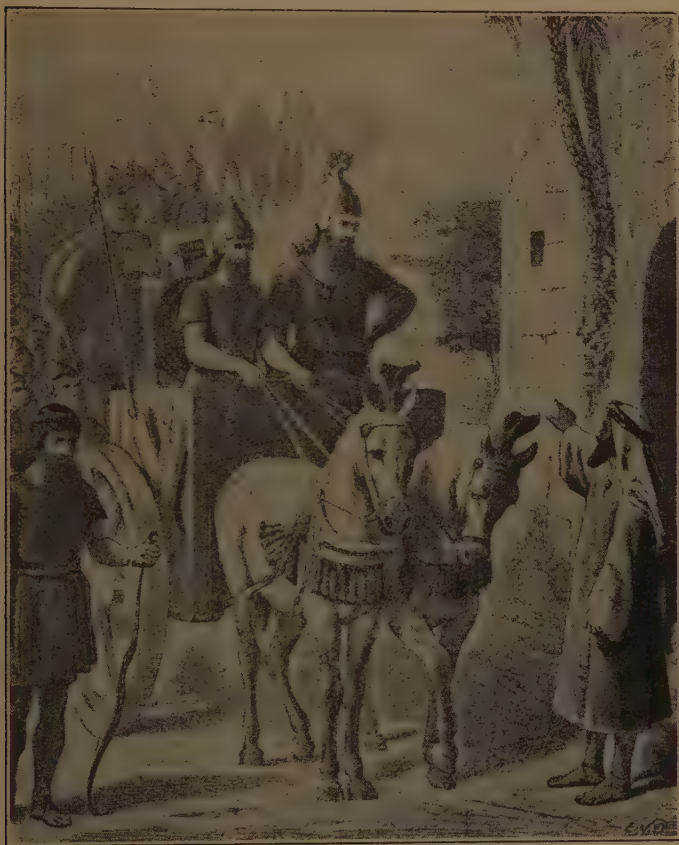
We the children of the Lord  
Surely are: we have His Word.  
If we fall upon our way,  
God will keep His vow for aye.  
To the last He faithful is,  
Loves to ever call us His. (62:4.)



LESSON XLIV.

GOLDEN TEXT.

2 Kings 5:14.—Then went he down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God, and he was clean.



NAAMAN COMES TO ELISHA.

MEMORY VERSE.

Jesus, Jesus, only Jesus  
Can my heartfelt longing still;  
See, I pledge myself to Jesus,  
What He wills, alone to will.  
For my heart, which He hath filled,  
Ever cries: Lord, as Thou wilt. (66:1.)

## LESSON XLIV.

### THE COVENANT OF BAPTISM.

*How can water do such great things?*

It is not water indeed that does it, but the Word of God, which is in and with the water, and faith which trusts this Word of God in the water. For without the Word of God the water is simply water, and no Baptism. But with the Word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of regeneration in the Holy Spirit.

#### BIBLE TEXT.

Rom. 11:27.—This is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

### THE HEALING OF NAAMAN.

Naaman was a captain in the army of the king of Syria. When he became very sick with leprosy there was no doctor in his country who could make him well. But he had in his home a little girl taken captive from Israel, who had heard of Elisha, the great man of God, how he made the sick well, and brought the dead back to life, and she told Naaman's wife that Elisha could make Naaman well again.

Naaman at last went to see this great man of God, and when he came, Elisha told him to go and bathe seven times in the river Jordan and he would be well. This made Naaman angry. He said there were rivers in his own country that had much cleaner water, and he would not go and wash in the dirty waters of the river Jordan. But his servants told him that he had better do as Elisha had said, so at last he did, and when he had bathed seven times his flesh was whole and the sores were all gone.

How glad he was that he had obeyed the man of God, and how ashamed he was that he had been so unwilling to obey, and how thankful he was to the God of Israel who had done this great thing for him. Naaman wanted to give Elisha rich presents that he had brought, but Elisha would not take them. 2 Kings 5:1-16.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What is said about Naaman in our Golden Text?*
2. *What was the matter with Naaman?*
3. *What had Elisha told him to do?*
4. *What happened when he obeyed?*
5. *Why could the water of the Jordan heal him? It was united with the Word of God.*
6. *How can water do such great things in Baptism?*
7. *What has faith to do?*
8. *Why is the water in Baptism called "a gracious water of life"? It cleanses our hearts from sin and gives eternal life.*
9. *Why is it called "a washing of regeneration"? In Baptism the Holy Spirit plants the seed of new life in our heart.*
10. *What does our Bible Text mean by "covenant"? An agreement or promise.*
11. *Repeat again what God promises in Baptism.*
12. *What does the child promise in Baptism? To renounce sin and believe in God.*
13. *When does the child renew this promise? At Confirmation.*
14. *How long will God keep His promise?*
15. *How long must we keep our promise, if we shall be saved?*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read 2 Kings 5. Naaman's wife had a Jewish slave girl who told her that if Naaman went to the prophet Elisha, he would cleanse him from his leprosy. The king finds this out, and sends Naaman to Elisha. (3) Note that Naaman became offended when he was told to go and dip himself in the Jordan river. He thought the water in his home river was just as good as this. But finally his servants persuaded him to try. (5) What made the water in the Jordan heal Naaman was that the Word of God from His prophet was united with the water. (6) Likewise no water alone can save, but water united with the Word of God can. (7) Naaman had to trust in the promises of Elisha, otherwise he would not have been healed. So faith must trust the Word of Jesus connected with Baptism. (8) Emphasize "gracious," received without any merit on our part. (11) Emphasize again the benefit of Baptism. God takes the child into His Kingdom, His Church, and promises to be its God and provide and care for it for all time. (13) After the child has been taught about God at home, in school and in church, and learns to know God and to love Him, the child makes a public promise to renounce sin and evil and to believe in the Triune God. This is called Confirmation. (14) God never breaks His part of the agreement, even if we do so. (15) Jesus says: Be faithful to death, and I will give thee a crown of life. We therefore need to pray as we do in our Memory Verse.

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM.

*What does such baptizing with water signify?*

It signifies that the old Adam in us should, by daily contrition and repentance, be drowned and die, with all sins and evil desires; and again a new man daily come forth and arise, who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

## BIBLE TEXT.

1 Peter 3:21.—The like figure, even Baptism, saves us, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## THE FLOOD.

Men multiplied on the earth, and the sons of Seth came together with the descendants of Cain and took their daughters for wives. Thereby wickedness became great over all the earth, and it repented God that He had made man. Only Noah found favor in the eyes of God. Therefore He said to Noah: Make thee a ship, three hundred cubits long (this cubit is about 19 inches long), fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high; for I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy everything that lives. Noah built the ship which is called the ark, and went into it with his wife and his three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, and their wives, and a male and a female of all the animals that cannot live in the water. Then God let it rain for 40 days and 40 nights, and the waters rose 15 cubits over the highest mountains.

God remembered Noah and made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters sank, and the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat.

Noah went out of the ark and brought a thank offering unto the Lord. And the Lord said in His heart: I will not again curse the ground for man's sake, for man is evil from his youth. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease. And God set the rainbow in the heavens as a token that He would remember His covenant. Gen. 6-9.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *Who told Noah to build the ark mentioned in our Golden Text?*
2. *Why did God send the flood?*
3. *What happened to all the wicked people?*
4. *How many people were saved?*
5. *What did Noah do when he came out of the ark?*
6. *What did God promise?*
7. *To what does Peter compare Baptism? Noah's ark.*
8. *Why does he say that Baptism is like Noah's ark?*
9. *What is drowned in Baptism? Our sin and old Adam.*
10. *What does our Catechism lesson say about this?*
11. *What is meant by "old Adam"? Our wicked nature with its evil lusts.*
12. *How is the old Adam to be more and more killed?*
13. *What must come forth in our heart after Baptism?*
14. *What is meant by "new man"? The new spiritual life put there by the Holy Spirit.*
15. *How will we then live before God?*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Gen. 6-9. Emphasize that Noah preached to the people all the time he built the ark, 120 years, but the people refused to listen to him. Many people also helped him build the ark, but why did not they get into it? (5) Noah certainly had good reason to praise God, who had spared him and his family, while He destroyed all others. (8) As Noah's ark saved Noah and his people from being drowned, so Baptism is the ark that saves us from being destroyed. (9) All sin and wickedness and the old sinful people were drowned in the flood, so all our sins and the old Adam are drowned in the water of Baptism. (11) Our old Adam is not entirely drowned in Baptism, but will become live and powerful again, if he is not continually suppressed after Baptism. But in Baptism we receive the Holy Spirit, who is to help us suppress and kill the old sinful nature. (12) We must daily feel sorry about our sins, and go to God and ask Him pardon us and give us strength to fight against sin. (14) The new spiritual life must be given free chance to grow and develop into a beautiful, holy life. (15) Compare old Adam with his evil desires to weeds that must be rooted out of the flower garden, if the flowers shall grow and develop into blossoms. The new spiritual life is the flower plant that must be permitted to grow in our heart, so that we can live before God in righteousness and purity here on earth and in heaven forever. We therefore need to pray as we do in our Memory Verse. Let someone give it.



LESSON XLV.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Gen. 7:1.—And the Lord said unto Noah: Come thou and all thy house into the ark, for thee have I seen righteous before me.



NOAH RECEIVES THE DOVE INTO THE ARK.

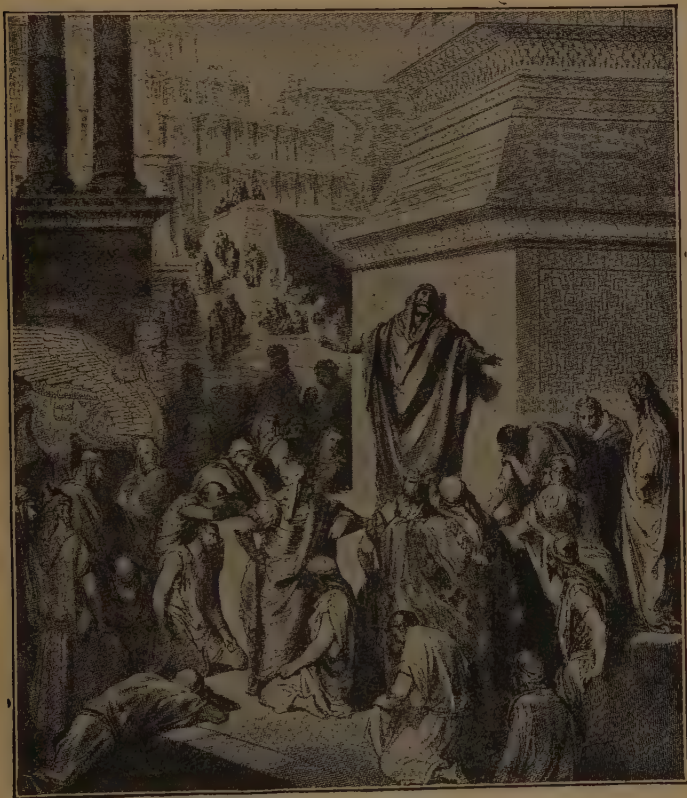
MEMORY VERSE.

One there is for Whom I'm living,  
Whom I love most tenderly:  
Jesus, unto Whom I'm giving  
What in love He gave to me.  
Jesus' blood hides all my guilt;  
Lead me, Lord, then, as Thou wilt. (66:2.)

LESSON XLVI.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Jonah 2:2.—Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God and said: I cried by reason of my affliction unto the Lord, and He heard me.



JONAH PREACHING AT NINEVEH.

MEMORY VERSE.

O Jesus, Lamb of God, alone,  
Who didst for all our sins atone,  
Though I have sinned and gone astray,  
Turn not, O Lord, Thy guest away! (74:4.)

## LESSON XLVI.

### CONFESSION.

*What is confession?*

Confession embraces two parts: one that we confess our sins; the other that we receive absolution or forgiveness from the pastor or other confessor as from God Himself and in no wise doubt, but firmly believe that through it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

#### BIBLE TEXT.

John 20:23.—Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them.

### JONAH.

The Lord said unto the prophet Jonah: Go to Nineveh, the great city, and proclaim that it shall be destroyed, for its sins are great. But Jonah went aboard a ship to flee over the sea. The Lord sent a tempest, so the ship was at the point of sinking. The sailors said one to another: Let us cast lots to see whose fault it is that such evil befalls us. The lot fell on Jonah, and they cast him into the sea, and it was calm. The Lord sent a great fish that swallowed Jonah.

Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God from within the fish and said: I cried by reason of my affliction unto the Lord and He heard me. I will sacrifice unto Thee with the voice of thanksgiving. I will pay Thee what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.

After three days the Lord then commanded the fish, and it cast Jonah up on land. Now Jonah obeyed the Lord and went into Nineveh and cried: In 40 days Nineveh shall be destroyed! The people repented, and the king put off his royal garments, and clothed himself in sack cloth and ashes. It repented the Lord what He had spoken, and He spared Nineveh. (The Book of Jonah.)

## QUESTIONS.

1. *When did Jonah offer the prayer in our Golden Text?  
When swallowed by the fish.*
2. *Why did God let the fish swallow Jonah?*
3. *When Jonah repented, what did God command the fish to do?*
4. *What did Jonah then do?*
5. *What was the effect of his preaching?*
6. *When the people of Nineveh repented, what did God do?*
7. *What does God ask you to do if you see people do wrong?*
8. *When you have done wrong, what should you do?*
9. *If you have wronged some one besides God, what does God ask you to do? Confess it to him and ask forgiveness.*
10. *If any one has wronged you, what does God ask of you? That you cheerfully forgive.*
11. *To whom has Jesus given power to forgive sins on earth? To His Church, which exercises this power through the pastor or some other Christian.*
12. *What does Jesus say in our Bible Text?*
13. *To whom should we go and talk when worried about our sins? The pastor or any other Christian in whom we have confidence.*
14. *What should you believe when the pastor or other confessor pardons your sins?*
15. *When does public absolution take place? Before going to the Lord's Supper.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read the book of Jonah. (2) Jonah tried to run away from God, but no one can do that. The fish sent by God was a punishment for Jonah, but became also his salvation, both to body and soul. It led him to repent and confess his sins, and God commanded the fish to cast Jonah on land. (4) Jonah is now willing to obey God and go and preach to the wicked people at Nineveh. (5) The effect was far greater than Jonah expected. The king ordered all his people and all animals to fast and be covered with sackcloth, a sign of repentance, and cry mightily of God for pardon. (6) How could God but pardon such people and spare them from destruction? (7) It is our duty who love God to warn people who do wrong, and not be disobedient like Jonah. (8) Emphasize that all sins that we commit are against God, whether we feel them as such or not. Therefore we daily need to pray as we do in our Memory Verse. (10) The old Adam in us does not like to forgive and forget when others have wronged us, but the new man says: Forgive and make up. (11) The pastor represents Jesus on earth, and Jesus has given him power to do things in His name and in His place.

## PART V. THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR.

LESSON XLVII

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

*What is the Sacrament of the Altar?*

The Sacrament of the Altar is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

*Where is this written?*

The Holy Evangelists, Matthew, Mark and Luke, together with St. Paul, write thus:

“Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave to His disciples, saying: take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me.”

“After the same manner, also, when He had supped, He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in my Blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins; this do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.”

### THE PASSOVER.

When Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go out of Egypt, God sent 10 plagues over Egypt. The last and worst of these was the slaughter of the firstborn.

The Lord bade Moses speak to the children of Israel and say: Tonight ye shall kill a lamb in every house, and ye shall take the blood and put it on the two door posts; ye shall roast the lamb and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

At midnight the Lord passed through Egypt and slew all the first-born. But He saw the blood on the dwellings of Israel and passed over. Ex. 12.



## QUESTIONS.

1. *What great event does our Golden Text speak about? The institution of the Passover.*
2. *What did God command the Israelites to do?*
3. *From what did the blood on their houses save them?*
4. *Why were they to celebrate this event every year? To remind them of the blood that saved them.*
5. *What was the lamb and the blood to be a picture of? Jesus the Lamb of God, who shed His blood to save us.*
6. *Why then was Jesus anxious to eat the Passover with His disciples before He suffered? He wished to give the Lord's Supper to take its place.*
7. *When, then, did Jesus institute the Lord's Supper?*
8. *What is the Lord's Supper, or the Sacrament of the Altar?*
9. *What does Jesus give us with the bread in the Lord's Supper?*
10. *What words of Jesus make us believe this?*
11. *When was His body given for us? On the cross Good Friday.*
12. *What do we receive with the wine in this Sacrament?*
13. *What words of Jesus make us believe this?*
14. *When was Christ's blood shed for us?*
15. *What does Jesus mean by "in remembrance of me"? We are to think about His suffering and death.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Ex. 12. Review briefly the plagues sent by God over Pharaoh to make him let the Israelites go back to Canaan. The last and worst was the slaughter of the firstborn in Egypt, which led to the Passover. (5) As the blood of the lamb saved the Israelites from the angel of the Lord and saved them from the slavery of Egypt, so the blood of Jesus saves us from the punishment of God, and delivers us from the slavery of sin. (6) When Jesus died, of whom the Passover lamb was a picture, they were no longer to eat the Passover lamb or celebrate this feast. Jesus was now going to give His people Himself to eat and drink in the Lord's Supper. (7) Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper just as they were through eating the Passover supper the last time, and this was the night in which He was betrayed. (10) Even though we can not understand it, we believe that Jesus gives us His body and blood in this Sacrament, because He expressly says so Himself. (11) We receive the very body and the same blood that were given and shed for us on the cross. If we can not understand, for instance, why the food we eat makes us live and grow, why should we worry because we can not understand the words and works of Jesus? Mention that the Reformed Church does not believe that Jesus is present bodily in this Sacrament. (15) Apply and explain Memory Verse.

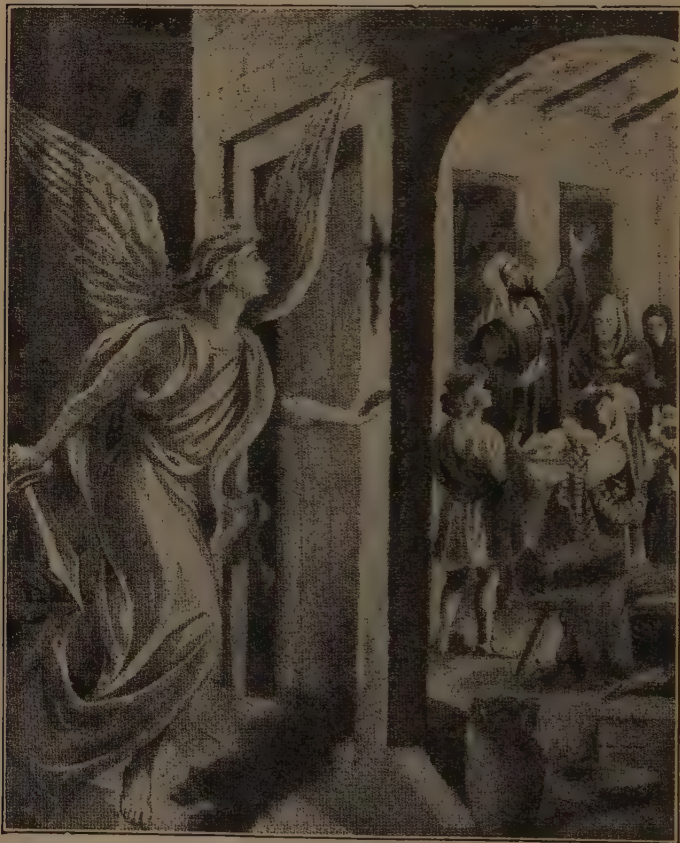
LESSON XLVII

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ex. 12:13.—When I see the blood on your houses, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not come upon you.

BIBLE TEXT.

Luke 22:15.—I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.



THE PASSOVER.

MEMORY VERSE.

I do believe Thy holy Word  
Is truth indeed, O Jesus, Lord;  
The broken bread, the cup of wine  
Thy body is and blood divine. (76:10.)

LESSON XLVIII.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ps. 23:5.—Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.



JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

MEMORY VERSE.

The feeble eye of reason can  
Not see this thing, nor understand.  
I to the Table of the Lord  
Come, trusting to Thy faithful Word. (76:11.)

THE BENEFIT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

*What benefit have we of the Sacrament of the Altar?*

This is shown us by these words:

“Given, and shed for you, for the remission of sins,”

namely, that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

*How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?*

It is not the eating and drinking, indeed, that does it, but the words here written:

“Given, and shed for you, for the remission of sins.”

These words, together with the bodily eating and drinking, are the chief thing in the Sacrament; and he that believes these words has what they say and express, namely, the forgiveness of sins.

BIBLE TEXT.

John 6:56.—He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me and I in him.

THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM.

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *What does David mean by table in our Golden Text? The table of goodness and mercy where God lets him feast.*
2. *What does God do to his soul?*
3. *On what paths does God lead him?*
4. *Why does he not fear even in death?*
5. *Why will he dwell in the house of the Lord forever? There is where God prepares His table for him.*
6. *What table does Jesus prepare for us in His house?*
7. *Why do we receive goodness and mercy at this table? We there receive Christ's true body and blood.*
8. *What benefit do we derive from the Lord's Supper?*
9. *Where did we receive forgiveness, life and salvation before? In Baptism and in the Word.*
10. *Why do we need these blessings again? We sin much every day.*
11. *Why do we receive forgiveness in the Lord's Supper? We receive Jesus who gave His body and blood to save us.*
12. *Why do we receive life and salvation? See Catechism lesson.*
13. *What does Joseph say about this in our first Bible Text?*
14. *How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?*
15. *What must you do with the words of Christ?*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

(5) Note what a great idea David had of the Church. (6) In His Church at the altar Jesus prepares the Lord's Supper, also called the Lord's Table. (9) Review briefly Lesson XLIII. (10) We need forgiveness every day, and we need life and strength from Jesus to fight against sin, so that we can keep the salvation He gave us in Baptism. What food is for our body, the body and blood of Jesus in the Lord's Supper is for the new life that the Holy Spirit gave us in Baptism. (11) We can not eat Christ's body and blood without receiving what that body and that blood represent, namely, forgiveness of sins. (12) Because it is sin that stands between us and life and salvation, it is natural that when sin is removed, life and salvation are ours. Sin can be compared to a fence or wall that keeps us away from something good. Take the fence away, and there is nothing to keep us away. The name of Jesus stands for life and salvation, and he who receives Jesus in the Lord's Supper must receive life and salvation. (14) It is the Words of Christ that make this Sacrament what it is. For as the mouth of Christ speaketh, so it is. He can neither lie nor deceive. (15) But we must believe the Words of Christ, even though we cannot understand them, otherwise we obtain no blessing. Apply Memory Verse.



## LESSON XLIX.

### PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER.

*Who, then, receives this Sacrament worthily?*

Fasting and bodily preparation are indeed a good outward discipline; but he is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words:

“Given, and shed for you, for the remission of sins.”

But he that believes not these words, or doubts, is unworthy and unprepared; for the words, “for you,” require truly believing hearts.

#### BIBLE TEXT.

1 Cor. 11:28.—But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

### JOB'S CONFESSION.

In lesson 39 we heard how God permitted the devil to bring great misfortune upon Job. Job bore it all bravely and said: The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.

But finally Job became impatient and said: Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know my integrity. He began to enumerate all the good things that he had done, and how kind and good he had been to everybody. He disputed with God, and considered Him very unjust for letting all these misfortunes come upon him.

Then the Lord spoke to Job out of a storm and said: Who art thou that darest to dispute with the almighty God? Then Job answered the Lord: Behold, I am vile, what shall I answer Thee? I have spoken what I did not understand. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes. God blessed Job again, and he became twice as rich as before. He got seven sons and three daughters, and lived 140 years after this.

## QUESTIONS.

1. *Who makes the confession in our Golden Text?*
2. *What caused Job to become impatient?*
3. *Of what did Job boast?*
4. *What did God then say to Job?*
5. *What confession did Job then make? See Golden Text.*
6. *What did God then do?*
7. *What does our Bible Text ask us to do?*
8. *What is meant by "examine ourselves"? See if we are sorry on account of our sins, and believe the Words of Jesus.*
9. *Who then receives the Lord's Supper worthily?*
10. *Why is one who confesses like Job worthy to go to the Lord's Supper? He hungers for mercy.*
11. *Who is unworthy and unprepared?*
12. *Why is one who boasts of his perfection unfit? He feels no need of strength or help.*
13. *Why is it so bad to receive the Lord's Supper unworthily? It brings Christ's anger and punishment upon those who are unworthy.*
14. *What should urge us to go often to the Lord's Supper? Our great need of its blessings.*
15. *What should we do after receiving the Lord's Supper? Thank Jesus, and live a holy life.*

## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Read Job 29; 31; 42. Let pupils tell about the awful trials of Job. Read what Job says about himself in chapters 29 and 31. He could not see why God should deal so harshly with a good man like himself. (4) Read to the class chapter 38, where God reasons with Job. (5) Job now realizes that God does everything well, and that he has sinned greatly in complaining about God. (10) Job was exceedingly sorry because of his sins, and desired to be forgiven, and he believed that God in His mercy could and would forgive him. The one who is best fit to eat at the dinner table and enjoys it the most, is the one who is most hungry. So the more hungry we are for Christ's goodness and mercy, the better fitted we are to go to the Lord's Supper, and the more we can enjoy it. (11) So long as any one trusts in his perfection, as Job at first did, he is not fit to go to the Lord's Supper. He is like one trying to eat who is not the least hungry. So long as people do not feel the need of forgiveness of sin, and long for Christ's help to fight against sin, they are not worthy to go to the Lord's Supper. It would be the same as asking a person who is not sick to take medicine. (13) Jesus considers His holy body and blood too precious to be wasted on those who will not acknowledge the need of His grace. They must expect punishment. (15) Apply Memory Verse, and explain.

LESSON XLIX.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Job 42:6.—Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.



JOB'S CONFESSION.

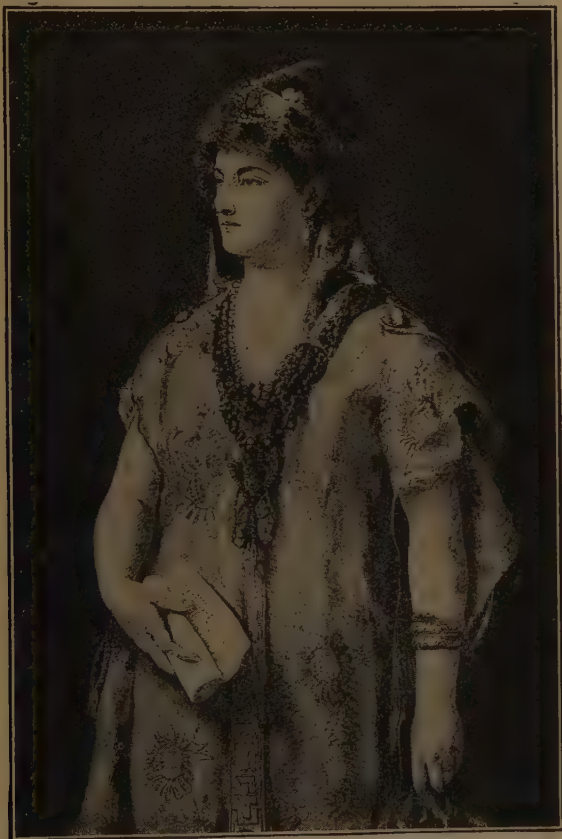
MEMORY VERSE.

Abide with us, the day is waning,  
Thus prayed the two while on the way.  
We read that Thou, O Lord, remaining,  
Didst all their doubts and fears allay.  
Incline Thine ear, Thou King of grace,  
When, praying thus, we seek Thy face. (115:1.)

LESSON L.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Esther 7:3.—If I have found favor in thy sight, O king,  
let the life of my people be given me at my request.



BEAUTIFUL QUEEN ESTHER.

MEMORY VERSE:

How blessed is the little flock,  
Whom Jesus calls His own!  
He is their Savior and their Rock,  
They trust in Him alone;  
They walk by faith and hope and love,  
But they shall dwell with Him above.  
When hope and faith shall pass away.  
And love shall last for aye. (159a:1.)

## LESSON L.

### BIBLE TEXTS.

1 Peter 2:24.—He bare our sins in His body upon the tree, that we, having died unto sins, might live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye are healed.

Rev. 2:10.—Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life.

### QUEEN ESTHER.

Esther was a beautiful Jewish girl born in Babylon during the captivity of the Jews. When her parents died, she was adopted by her cousin Mordecai.

When king Ahasuerus deposed his queen, Esther was chosen as his queen. He loved her, and set a royal crown on her head.

Some time after this the king promoted Haman to become chief over all the princes in the land. Haman hated Mordecai, and persuaded the king to make a decree that all Jews in Babylon should be destroyed. When Mordecai heard of the decree, he told Esther about it and said: Who knows but what you have come to the kingdom just at this time to save your people? Esther asked Mordecai and the Jews of the city to fast and pray for 3 days and she would do the same.

Esther then went to speak to the king. He was glad to see her, and offered to give her anything she would ask for, even half of his kingdom. Esther only invited him and Haman to a banquet the next day and he promised to come.

When they were seated at the banquet table the next day, the king asked again: What is your request, Queen Esther? It shall be granted thee, even to half of the kingdom. Esther answered: If I have found favor in thy sight, O king, let my life be given me and the life of my people; for we are sold to be destroyed. Then answered the king: Who is he that dares to presume in his heart to do so. Esther replied: An enemy, even this wicked Haman. The king rose from the table very angry. He ordered Haman to be hung, and appointed Mordecai to take his office. With the permission of the king, Mordecai issued a new decree, and the Jews were saved from destruction. (Book of Esther.)



## QUESTIONS.

1. *For whom does Esther plead in our Golden Text?*
2. *What had the king commanded?*
3. *Who told Esther about the awful decree?*
4. *What did Esther then do?*
5. *How was Haman punished?*
6. *Who was given his place?*
7. *How were the people of Israel saved?*
8. *What do you therefore think about Esther?*
9. *Who saved us when we were condemned because of our sins?*
10. *How did Jesus do this? See first Bible Text.*
11. *What is meant by "having died unto sin"? Saved from the power of sin.*
12. *What is meant by "live unto righteousness"? I will do good and serve everybody as Esther and Mordecai did.*
13. *What can you do for those who suffer?*
14. *How long must you remain faithful? See Bible Text.*
15. *What does Jesus then promise you?*

## NOTES AND QUESTIONS.

Read the book of Esther. In lesson 16 we heard how King Cyrus permitted the Jews to return to Canaan. Many of the people, however, remained behind in Babylon, and among these was Esther. (2) When Haman became the chief ruler of Babylon, all the servants of the king had to bow before him. This Mordecai refused to do. Haman therefore became angry and went to the king and told him that the Jews were a disobedient and rebellious people and should be destroyed. (4) Even though Esther was queen she had no right to come into the king's palace without his invitation. It would mean certain death for her if the king became angry. But Esther loved her people and said: I will go in to the king, even though it is contrary to law, and if I perish, I perish. (8) Esther did not forget her adopted father and her people, even though she became queen, and lived in glory and luxury. She remained true to her father and her people and her God. Emphasize how easy it is for us to grow proud when we prosper and to forget our friends and our God. (10) Jesus took our sins upon Himself and died in our place. (11) Thereby He saved us from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil. (12) Because Jesus has saved us, we are to show by a holy, righteous life that we love Him. (13) Like Esther we are to show our sympathy with all who suffer, whether they suffer in body or in soul. Emphasize work for charity and missions. (15) Emphasize what a blessing it is to be a child of Jesus by applying Memory Verse.



VOLRATH VOGT'S  
OLD TESTAMENT  
BIBLE HISTORY

ARRANGED INTO LESSONS AS A  
SUPPLEMENT TO

GRADED LESSONS ON THE CATECHISM  
AND  
GRADED LESSONS ON THE EXPLANATION

BY

REV. H. P. GRIMSBY, M. A.

Each section or lesson in this Bible History Supplement  
is to be studied together with the corresponding lesson  
in the Catechism or Explanation



MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA  
AUGSBURG PUBLISHING HOUSE



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# I. CREATION TO THE FLOOD.

4004 TO 2348 BEFORE CHRIST, 1656 YEARS.\*

## I. CREATION.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was waste and void; and darkness was upon the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said: **Let there be light**; and there was light. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.—And God made a vast expanse which He called Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.—And God gathered the waters into one place, and the dry land appeared. And God said: Let the earth put forth grass and herbs and trees bearing fruit. And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.—And God made the two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.—And God created the great sea-monsters, and every creature that lives in the waters, and every fowl that flies under heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.—And God made the beasts of the earth, and the cattle, and everything that creeps upon the ground. And God said: Let us make man in our image, and let him rule over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over everything that lives upon the earth. **And God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them.**

And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and

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\* The exact chronology of most of the Old Testament is very uncertain. The dates here given are those of Archbishop Ussher, and will give the general order and arrangement of events as nearly correct as we can obtain them. The year 4004 is reckoned as the creation of man.

there was morning, a sixth day. And God rested on the seventh day from His work, and He blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it. (Gen. 1.)

## 2. ADAM AND EVE.

God planted a garden eastward, in Eden. This garden has been called Paradise. And out of the ground God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, the **tree of life** also in the midst of the garden, and the **tree of knowledge of good and evil**. And God put man in the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it, and He said: Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat; but of the tree of knowledge thou shalt not eat; for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.—God said also: It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help, answering to him. And God brought all living creatures to Adam to see what he would call them, and whatsoever name Adam called every creature, that was the name thereof; but for himself there was not found a helpmeet for him. And God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and He took one of his ribs and made thereof a woman and brought her unto him. Then Adam said: This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father, and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh.—Adam was the first man, and Eve was the first woman.—They were innocent, and knew neither sin, nor sorrow, nor sickness, nor death. (Gen. 2.)

## 3. THE FALL.

The serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which God had made. And he said unto the woman: Has God truly said: Ye shall not eat of any tree in the garden? The woman answered: Of all the other trees we may freely eat; but of the tree of knowledge God hath said: Ye shall not eat of it, lest ye die. The serpent answered: Ye shall not die; for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as God, knowing good and evil. The woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes and desirable to make

one wise. Then she took of the fruit and ate, and she gave also to her husband, and he ate. Then their eyes were opened, and they knew that they were naked. At evening they heard the voice of God, and hid themselves among the trees of the garden. Then God called unto Adam and said: Where art thou? And Adam said: I heard Thy voice, and I was afraid, because I am naked, and I hid myself. Then God said: Who told thee that thou art naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree of knowledge? Adam answered: The woman gave me of the fruit, and I ate. Then God said to the woman: What is this that thou hast done? She answered: The serpent beguiled me, and I ate. And God said unto the serpent: Cursed art thou above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life. I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and the seed of the woman. It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.—Unto the woman God said: In sorrow thou shalt bring forth children, and thy husband shall rule over thee.—Unto the man God said: Cursed is the ground for thy sake, in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat thy bread, till thou return unto the ground; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. So he drove Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden, and He placed a Cherubim with a flaming sword to keep the way to the tree of life.—Thus sin came into the world, and through sin came sorrow and sickness and death. (Gen. 3.)

#### 4. CAIN AND ABEL. SETH.

Adam and Eve got two sons; the first was called Cain and the second Abel. Cain tilled the ground, and Abel kept sheep. Once they both brought their offerings to the Lord. Cain brought of the fruit of the ground, and Abel of the best of his flock. God looked kindly on Abel and his offering; but on Cain and his offering He did not look kindly. Then Cain was very angry, and he turned his eyes to the ground. And God said unto him: Why turnest thou thine eyes to the ground? Is it not so that if thou doest well, thou canst freely look upwards, and if thou doest not well, sin watches at the door, and its desire shall be unto thee? But thou shalt rule over it. Still Cain rose up

against Abel his brother, and slew him, when they were in the field. And the Lord asked Cain: Where is thy brother? Cain answered: I know not; am I my brother's keeper? Then the Lord said: Thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. Therefore shalt thou be cursed, and a fugitive and a wanderer shalt thou be in the earth. And Cain went and dwelt on the east of Eden. His descendants were inventive and skilful, they invented harps and flutes and forged weapons; but they did also that which was evil in the eyes of the Lord. (Gen. 4.)

Adam and Eve got a son instead of Abel, he was called Seth. Seth and his descendants were pious and were called the children of God; but they were not innocent; for all have sinned in Adam. One of them was called Enoch; he walked with God, and did not die. The Lord took him when he was 365 years old. Methuselah lived 969 years, and is the oldest of all men. His grandson was Noah. (Gen. 5.)

## II. THE FLOOD TO THE CALL OF ABRAHAM.

2348 TO 1921 BEFORE CHRIST, 427 YEARS.

### 5. THE FLOOD.

Men multiplied on the earth, and the sons of Seth came together with the descendants of Cain and took their daughters for wives. Thereby wickedness became great over all the earth, and it repented God that he had made man. Only Noah found favor in the eyes of God. Therefore He said to Noah: Make thee a ship, three hundred cubits (this cubit is about 19 inches) long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high, and pitch it within and without with pitch; for I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy everything that lives. Noah built the ship which is called the ark, and went into it with his wife and his three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, and their wives, and a male and a female of all the animals that cannot live in the water. Then God let it rain for 40 days and 40 nights, and the waters rose 15 cubits over the highest mountains. And every living thing was de-



stroyed upon the earth. Noah only, and those that were with him in the ark, were left alive.

God remembered Noah and made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters sank, and the ark rested upon the mountain of Ararat. Noah opened the window, and he sent forth a raven and it went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth. Then he sent forth a dove, but as she found no rest for her foot, she returned to the ark, and Noah put forth his hand and took her unto him. And he waited yet seven days, and he sent forth the dove again. And she came back to him again at even-tide, and in her mouth she had a fresh olive leaf. And he waited seven days and sent forth the dove again, and she returned not; then Noah knew that the earth must be dry. The waters had then covered the earth for more than one year.

Now Noah went out of the ark and brought a thank offering unto the Lord. And the Lord said in His heart: I will not again curse the ground for man's sake, for man is evil from his youth. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease. And God set the rainbow in the heavens as a token that He would remember His covenant. Noah lived till he was 950 years old and is the second father of the human race. (Gen. 6-9.)

## 6A. THE TOWER OF BABEL.

The whole earth was of one speech. When man journeyed eastward, they found a large plain, and they dwelt there. And they said one to another: Come, let us build a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven, lest we be scattered over the whole earth. But the Lord came down and confounded their language, so the one did not understand the other. Thus the Lord scattered them over all the earth, and they left off building. Therefore the place is called Babel, that is: Confusion.—The descendants of Shem remained in Asia, the descendants of Ham went southwest to Africa, and the descendants of Japheth went westward to Europe. (Gen. 11: 1—9.)

### III. THE CALL OF ABRAHAM TO EXODUS.

1921 TO 1491 BEFORE CHRIST, 430 YEARS.

#### 6B. THE CALL OF ABRAHAM.

Terah descended from Shem. He dwelt in Mesopotamia and had three sons, Abraham, Nahor and Haran. Terah served strange gods. And the Lord said unto Abraham: Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto the land that I will show thee. I will make of thee a great nation, and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed. So Abraham took Sarah, his wife, and his brother's son Lot, and all that he had, and went to the land of Canaan. And the Lord appeared unto Abraham and said: Unto thy seed will I give this land. And there he builded an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him.

Abraham was very rich in cattle, in silver and in gold, and Lot also, who went with Abraham, had flocks and herds. And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abraham and the herdmen of Lot about the pastures. And Abraham said unto Lot: Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between thee and me, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we are brethren. Is not the land before thee? If thou wilt go to the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou go to the right hand, then I will go to the left. Lot saw that the plain of Jordan was well watered, that it was like the land of Egypt, even as the garden of Eden. So Lot chose this plain for himself and pitched his tents toward Sodom. But the inhabitants of Sodom were wicked, and sinned exceedingly against the Lord. (Gen. 12-13.)

#### 7A. ABRAHAM SAVES LOT.

A king from the east came and made war against the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah, gained victory over them, and carried off the people and their goods. He also carried off Lot and all his goods. When Abraham heard that his brother's son was taken captive, he led forth his trained men to the number of 318,

and pursued the enemy and overtook him; and he brought back all the goods and set Lot and the people free. When Abraham returned Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of God Most High, went out to him with bread and wine, and blessed him.—And the king of Sodom came and said unto Abraham: Take the goods to thyself and give me the people. But Abraham answered: I will not take as much as a thread nor a shoelatchet, lest thou shouldest say: I have made Abraham rich. (Gen. 14.)

## **7B. ABRAHAM IS STRONG IN FAITH.**

The Lord appeared again unto Abraham and promised him that his seed should become as numerous as the stars of heaven. Abraham was old and Sarah was old, and they had no children; but Abraham believed the Lord's promise and He counted it to him for righteousness.

Abraham sat in the door of his tent in the heat of the day. As he lifted up his eyes, lo, three men stood over against him. Abraham ran to meet them, bowed himself to the earth and said: My lord, pass not by thy servant. Let now a little water be fetched and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, and let me fetch a morsel of bread to strengthen you; after that you shall pass on. And they said: So do, as thou hast said. And Abraham ran unto the herd and had a good calf dressed and prepared, and Sarah took fine meal and baked cakes. And he took cream and milk and set before the men, and he stood by them under the tree while they did eat. Then said one of them: Where is Sarah your wife? Abraham answered: She is in the tent. Then said he: In a year's time I will return, and Sarah shall then have a son. Sarah heard this in the tent and laughed; for she thought she was too old to have children. But the one who was the Lord said: Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? (Gen. 15: 5-6; 18: 1-14.)

## **8. ABRAHAM PRAYS FOR SODOM.**

And the men rose up, and Abraham followed them. Then the Lord said: I will destroy Sodom; for its sins are grievous. The two angels went toward Sodom, and Abraham stood alone before the Lord and said:

Wilt Thou consume the righteous with the wicked? Perhaps there be fifty righteous within the city, wilt Thou not spare it for the sake of these? The Lord answered: If I find 50 righteous, I will not consume it. Abraham said: Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, who am but dust and ashes. Perhaps there shall lack five of the fifty, wilt Thou destroy the whole city for lack of five? The Lord answered: I will not destroy it, if I find there forty and five. And Abraham continued to pray, until he came down to ten, and the Lord promised to spare the city if He should find ten righteous in it.

Meanwhile the two angels came to Sodom and went in to Lot. Then the men in the city surrounded Lot's house to seize the angels; but they smote them with blindness, and brought Lot and his wife and his two daughters out of the city. And one of the angels said: Look not behind thee, neither stay in all the plain; escape to the mountain. But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. Then the Lord rained fire from heaven, and the fertile plain where Sodom and Gomorrah stood became the Dead Sea.—Thus it appeared that there were not ten righteous in Sodom. (Gen. 18: 16-33; 19.)

## 9. ABRAHAM IS STRENGTHENED IN FAITH

God visited Sarah at the time He had promised, and she bare a son, who was called Isaac. Abraham was then 100 years and Sarah was 90.

Some years after this it came to pass that God proved Abraham and said: Take now thy son Isaac, thine only son, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah and offer him on one of the mountains which I will tell thee. Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his ass, took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he clave the wood for the burnt offering, and went unto the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. He said then to his young men: Abide ye here, and I and the lad will go yonder and worship. And he took the wood for the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife, and they went both of them together. Then Isaac said: Father, here

is wood and fire; but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? Abraham answered: God will provide Himself the lamb, my son. So they went both of them together. When they came to the place, Abraham built an altar, laid the wood in order, bound Isaac, and laid him upon the wood. And he stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to offer his son. Then the Lord called unto him out of heaven and said: Abraham, Abraham: Lay not thy hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him. For now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. Abraham lifted up his eyes, and behold, a ram behind him, caught in the thicket by his horns. And he took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering instead of his son.

God called the second time out of heaven and said: Because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son, from me, I will exceedingly bless thee, and I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the seashore. And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. So Abraham returned unto his young men, and went with them to his home. (Gen. 22: 1-19.)

#### 10. ISAAC.

When Sarah was dead, Abraham said to Eliezer, who ruled his house: Promise that thou shalt not take one of the daughters of the Canaanites to be a wife for my son, but thou shalt go unto my country and to my kindred and take a wife for my son Isaac. Eliezer then took ten of his master's camels, having all goodly things of his master's in his hand, and he went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor. And he made his camels kneel down without the city by the well at the time of evening, the time that women go out to draw water. And he said: Lord, God of Abraham, show this day kindness unto my master. I stand now by this well, and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water. I will then say to one of them: Let me drink of thy pitcher. If she then answereth: Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also; let the same be she that Thou hast appointed as wife for Thy servant Isaac. Before he yet had done speaking, Rebekah came out, and she was very fair, and



she had her pitcher on her shoulder and went to the well and filled her pitcher. And the servant went to her and said: Give me to drink, I pray thee, of thy pitcher. And she said: Drink, my lord, and I will give thy camels drink also. And she drew water in the trough for all his camels. And he wondered greatly while he looked on. When all the camels had done drinking he gave her a ring and two bracelets of gold and said: Whose daughter are you? Is there room in your father's house for us to lodge in? She said: I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Nahor. We have both straw and feed enough, and room to lodge in. Then the man bowed his head, worshipped the Lord and said: Blessed be the Lord, who hath led me in the way to the house of my master's brother. And Rebekah ran home and told these words.

Rebekah's brother, Laban, ran out to the man, brought him into the house, gave the camels straw and feed, and set food before him to eat. But he said: I will not eat until I have told mine errand. When he had told all, Laban and Bethuel answered: This comes from the Lord. Take Rebekah and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife. And they called Rebekah, and said unto her: Wilt thou go with this man? And she said: I will go. Then Eliezer took her, and went his way. And Isaac brought her into Sarah's tent, and she became his wife, and he loved her.

Abraham lived happy in the faith in the Savior, Who should come. He was 175 years old when he died, and was gathered to his people. Isaac became heir of all that he had and became a chief for his people. And the Lord blessed him, and said: Unto thee and thy seed will I give the land of Canaan, and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. (Gen. 24; 25: 1-11; 26: 3-4.)

### IIA. ESAU AND JACOB.

Twenty years had passed, and Rebekah had no children. Then the Lord said to her: Thou shalt bear two sons and the elder shall serve the younger. When her time was up she bare twins. The first-born was hairy all over, and was called Esau, and the second was called Jacob. And the boys grew and Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a quiet man

dwelling in tents. And Isaac loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once Jacob had boiled pottage, and Esau came faint in from the field. Esau said, Give me, I pray thee, the pottage. Jacob answered: Sell me first of all thy birthright. And Esau said: Behold, I am at the point to die, what profit shall the birthright do to me? So he sold his birthright to Jacob for the pottage of lentils. And he ate and drank, and rose up, and went his way, and he despised his birthright. (Gen. 25:23-34.)

## II B. JACOB OBTAINS THE BLESSING.

When Isaac was old and nearly blind, he said one day to Esau: Take thy quiver and thy bow, go out to the field, and take me venison, and make me savory food, that I may eat thereof and bless thee before I die. Rebekah, who heard this, persuaded Jacob to go to the father in Esau's stead, and obtain the blessing. Jacob answered: My brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. My father may feel me, and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing. But she persuaded him, killed two kids of the goats, and made savory food, and she put the skins of the kids of goats upon Jacob's hands and neck, and he came to his father and asked for the blessing. Isaac said: How is it that thou found it so quickly, my son? Jacob answered: The Lord thy God sent me good speed. Isaac said: Come nearer, my son, that I may feel thee. And he felt him, and said: The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau. And he did eat of Jacob's food, and blessed him and set him as lord over his brother, as if he were the first-born. And he said: Cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be every one that blesseth thee.

Jacob was scarcely gone out, before Esau came in from his hunting. He made savory food, and brought it in to his father and said: Let my father eat of his son's venison, that thy soul may bless me. Isaac said: Who art thou? Esau answered: I am Esau, thy first-born son. Then Isaac trembled exceedingly and said: Who then is he that hath taken venison and brought it to me, and I have eaten of it, and blessed him, and he shall be blessed. Esau answered: Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me? Bless even me also, O

my father! And he lifted up his voice and wept. And Isaac said: By thy sword shalt thou live, and thou shalt serve thy brother.—Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing, and threatened to slay him, when his father died. Then said Rebekah unto Jacob: Flee to my brother Laban and tarry with him, until thy brother's fury turn away. (Gen. 27.)

## 12. JACOB GOES TO LABAN.

Jacob went away from home, and when the sun was set he lighted upon a certain place and tarried there all night, and he took a stone, and put it under his head and slept. And he dreamed that a ladder was set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven, and the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood above it and said: I am the God of Abraham and of Isaac. The land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it and to thy seed, and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And I will be with thee and bring thee again into this land. When Jacob awoke, he said: How dreadful is this place! This is the house of God, this is the gate of heaven!

Jacob journeyed eastward and came to Laban, his mother's brother, and he abode with him the space of a month. Then Laban said to him: What shall thy wages be? And Laban had two daughters, Leah and Rachel, and Rachel was beautiful. Therefore Jacob said: I will serve thee seven years for Rachel. And the seven years seemed unto him but a few days, for he loved her. When the seven years were finished Laban gave Leah to him, saying: It is not customary with us to give away the younger before the firstborn. Jacob had to serve other seven years for Rachel. Afterward he served six years for wages, and God blessed him, so he became very rich. When he saw that Laban became envious because of this he went away with his two wives, his two handmaids and his eleven children and all that he had. (Gen. 29-31.)

## 13. JACOB MEETS ESAU.

When Jacob drew near to Canaan he sent messengers to his brother Esau, saying: Let me find grace

in thy sight. When these messengers returned they said: Thy brother cometh to meet thee, and four hundred men with him. Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed, and he prayed earnestly to the Lord, saying; O God of my father Abraham and of my father Isaac, I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which Thou hast showed unto Thy servant. Deliver me, I pray Thee, from the hand of my brother Esau. Then he sent a present from his herds and flocks to Esau in order to appease him.

And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the break of day. Jacob wrestled manfully, and said: I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. And the man said to him: What is thy name? He answered, Jacob. Then he said: Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel; for thou hast striven with God and with men and hast prevailed. And he blessed him there. Then said Jacob: I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

When Jacob saw Esau coming toward him with four hundred men, he bowed himself to the ground seven times. And Esau ran to meet him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And they wept. Esau refused to take Jacob's present, but when Jacob insisted he accepted it.

Some years after this Isaac died 180 years old, and Esau and Jacob buried him. (Gen. 32-35.)

#### *here* **14. JOSEPH IS SOLD BY HIS BRETHREN.**

Jacob had 12 sons, of whom Reuben was the oldest. Joseph and Benjamin, the sons of Rachel, were the youngest. Joseph was feeding the flocks with his brothers, and he brought evil report of them unto their father. Now Jacob loved him more than his other sons, and he made him a long garment. The brothers who saw this hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him. And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it to his brothers: We were binding sheaves in the field, and your sheaves bowed down to my sheaf. And he dreamed again and told: The sun and the moon and eleven stars bowed down to me. Then his brothers said to him: Shalt thou indeed reign over us? And they hated him yet more. And

his father rebuked him and said: What is this dream, thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brothers come to bow down ourselves to thee? But he kept the dream in his mind.

Once, when the other sons fed their flocks far off, Jacob said to Joseph: Go now, see whether it be well with thy brothers and the flock, and Joseph went. When they saw him afar off, they said: Behold, this dreamer cometh, let us slay him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams. But Reuben, who wished to deliver him said: Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit. And Joseph came to his brothers, and they stripped him of his coat and cast him into the pit, which was empty. And they sat down to eat, and some merchants came with their camels bearing spices and balsam to Egypt. Judah said: Let us sell him to these merchants, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother. And they sold him for 20 pieces of silver. Reuben had meanwhile been away. When he returned to the pit, and Joseph was not there, he went to his brothers and said: The child is not there, and I, whither shall I go? They then killed a he-goat and dipped the coat in the blood, and sent it to their father and said: This have we found, know now, whether it be thy son's coat? And he knew it, and said: It is my son's coat, an evil beast has devoured him. And he mourned for his son many days, wept, and would not be comforted. (Gen. 37.)

### 15A. JOSEPH IS THROWN INTO PRISON.

The merchants brought Joseph to Egypt and sold him to Potiphar, the captain of the life-guard of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. God was with Joseph, and made him to prosper, and Potiphar made him overseer over his house. Potiphar's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph to seduce him; but Joseph answered: How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God? She then accused him to her husband, saying: This stranger tried to seduce me. Potiphar believed his wife, and cast Joseph into prison.

God was with Joseph and gave him favor with the keeper of the prison, and he set him over the other prisoners. (Gen. 39.)



## 15B. JOSEPH INTERPRETS DREAMS.

Pharaoh became offended at his chief butler and his chief baker, and cast them into the prison where Joseph was. When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were sad. The butler said: I dreamed that I saw a vine with three branches, and on the branches were grapes. I took them and pressed the juice into Pharaoh's cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand. Joseph said: Within three days Pharaoh will restore thee unto thine office; but have me in remembrance, who am innocent in this prison.—

The baker told his dream and said: I had three baskets upon my head, and in the uppermost basket there was bakemeats for Pharaoh; and the birds did eat them out of the basket. Joseph said: In three days Pharaoh shall take thy head. And it came to pass, as Joseph had interpreted, but the butler forgot him. (Gen. 40.)

## 16A. JOSEPH SET OVER EGYPT.

Two years afterward Pharaoh dreamed that he stood by the river Nile. Then there came up out of the river seven fat cows, and grazed on the bank. After them came seven lean cows, and devoured the former, but were yet as lean. Afterwards he dreamed that seven full and good ears of grain grew on one stalk, and after them seven thin ears that swallowed the former. None of the wise men of Egypt could interpret the dream. Then the butler remembered Joseph, and Pharaoh sent and called Joseph out of the prison, and said: I have heard say of thee, that when thou hearest a dream thou canst interpret it. Joseph answered: It is not in me. God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace. When he had heard the dreams, he interpreted them thus: There shall come seven years of great plenty, and after them years of famine, that shall consume all that remained from the seven years of plenty. When Pharaoh heard the interpretation, he set Joseph over the whole land of Egypt, and Joseph went through the land and stored up grain during the seven years of plenty. (Gen. 41.)

## **16B. JOSEPH'S BROTHERS COME INTO EGYPT.**

The famine was sore in all lands, but in Egypt there was grain. And Jacob sent ten of his sons to Egypt to buy grain; but he would not let Benjamin go. The brothers came to Joseph, and bowed themselves down before him. They knew not him, but he knew them, and remembered his dreams. They said that they had been twelve brothers; the youngest was at home with his father, and one was no more. But Joseph said: Ye are spies. And he kept them in prison for three days. On the third day he said to them: One of you shall remain in prison; but the others may go home with the grain, and ye shall fetch your youngest brother to me, that I may see whether ye speak the truth. Then said one to another: We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear him. And they knew not that Joseph understood this; but he turned himself about from them and wept. Simeon was kept, and the others went home. (Gen. 42.)

## **17. JOSEPH MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN.**

Jacob would not let Benjamin go with them, but said: Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and Benjamin ye will also take! But the famine was sore in the land, so he must needs send Benjamin. The brothers went to Egypt and stood before Joseph. When he saw Benjamin he said: God be gracious to thee, my son, and he went out and wept. And he washed his face, and he went in and refrained himself, and said to his servants: Set on bread.—And he commanded the steward of his house: Fill the men's sacks with grain and put my silver cup in Benjamin's sack. When they were not yet gone far off he sent his steward after them, the sacks were searched, and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack. Joseph would retain Benjamin as his slave; but Judah stood forth and said: Let me remain in his stead, for if we have not him with us, we will bring our father's gray hairs with sorrow into the grave.

Then Joseph could not refrain himself any longer, but said: I am Joseph. Doth my father yet live? His brothers could not answer him for fear; but Joseph

spoke kindly to them, kissed them all, and wept on Benjamin's neck. Afterwards he said: Make haste, and go home, and tell my old father that I am lord of all Egypt and bring him hither. They went home and told all this; but Jacob's heart fainted, for he believed them not. But when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent, he said: It is enough, Joseph, my son, liveth, I will go down and see him before I die. (Gen. 42-45.)

## 18. JACOB MOVES TO EGYPT.

The Lord spoke to Jacob in a vision, saying: Fear not to go down to Egypt, for I will be with thee, and bring thee up again, and Joseph shall close thine eyes. And Jacob moved down to Egypt with his whole family, 70 souls, and all that he had. When Joseph heard of his coming he made ready his chariot, and went up to meet him in Goshen. And he fell on his father's neck and wept a good while. Jacob said: Now let me die, since I have seen that thou art yet alive.—

On Pharaoh's command Joseph gave unto his father Goshen to dwell in, for in Goshen were good pastures, and Jacob and his sons were shepherds.—Jacob lived in Egypt 17 years and became 147 years old. A short time before his death he blessed Joseph's two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, and added: They shall be my sons even as Reuben and Simeon. After that he gathered all his sons about him, blessed them, and told them what should befall them in the latter days, and foretold of the Savior, whom he called the Prince of Peace.—Joseph brought his body up to Canaan and buried it in the sepulchre of Abraham and Isaac.

Joseph's brothers feared that he would now revenge himself on them. When he heard this Joseph wept and said: Am I in the place of God? Ye meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to save much people alive.—Joseph died, being 110 years old, and they embalmed his body and put it in a coffin in Egypt to take it with them up to Canaan, when God should visit them. (Gen. 46-50.)

## 19. MOSES IS BORN.

The children of Israel dwelt in Goshen for 430 years, and became a numerous people. There arose a new king over Egypt, who knew not Joseph, and he

thought: The Israelites are more numerous than we are and may become dangerous for us. Therefore he afflicted them with hard labor; but the more he afflicted them, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. Then he charged his people, saying: Every son that is born ye shall cast into the Nile and every daughter ye shall save alive.

At this time a woman of the tribe of Levi bare a son, and when she saw he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. And when she could no longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and she put the child in it, and laid it in the flags by the river's bank. And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him. And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe in the river and she had the ark fetched and opened it, and saw the child, and behold, the babe wept, and she had compassion on him. Then his sister came and asked: Shall I go and call a nurse? Pharaoh's daughter said to her: Go, and the maid went and called the child's mother. And he grew, and the mother brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she called him Moses, that is, one that is drawn out of the water. (Exodus 1; 2: 1-10.)

## 20. MOSES IN MIDIAN.

When Moses was forty years old, he went out to look on the burdens of his brethren, and he saw an Egyptian smiting an Israelite. Moses looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he smote the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. When Pharaoh heard this thing he sought to slay Moses, but he fled to Midian, and came to a priest by the name of Jethro, who had seven daughters, of whom he gave Moses one, Zipporah, for wife. And Moses dwelt in Midian forty years.

Once, when he kept Jethro's flocks at Mount Horeb, he saw a bush which burned, and was not consumed. When he drew near to see, the Lord spoke this to him from the bush: I am the God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob; I have seen the affliction of my people and heard their cry; now I will send thee to Pharaoh, and thou shalt bring my people out of Egypt. Moses answered: My brethren will not believe that Thou hast sent me. The Lord said: Cast thy rod on

the ground. Moses did so, and it became a serpent, and Moses fled for it. The Lord commanded, and Moses took it by the tail, and it became a rod again. The Lord gave him power to work other wonders; but Moses continued to excuse himself and said: I am slow of speech. The Lord answered: I will send thy brother Aaron to thee, and thou shalt put the words in his mouth, and he shall speak for thee. Then Moses returned to Egypt. He met Aaron on the road, and he went with him to the Israelites and told them the words of the Lord, and they rejoiced and bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord. (Ex. 2. 2-4.)

## IV. EXODUS TO JUDGES.

1491 TO 1435 BEFORE CHRIST, 56 YEARS.

### 21. GOING OUT OF EGYPT.

Moses and Aaron came and said to Pharaoh: Thus saith Jehovah, the God of Israel: Let my people go. Pharaoh answered: Who is Jehovah, that I should hearken unto His voice to let Israel go! I know Him not, and moreover I will not let Israel go.

Moses now performed the wonders that God had given him, but Pharaoh hardened his heart, and would not let the people go. Then God said unto Moses: Take thy rod and smite the waters in the Nile. And Moses did so, and the waters became blood. When this did not help, God sent nine other plagues upon Egypt. The eighth plague was numberless locusts that covered all the land, and ate every green thing, and the ninth was a thick darkness that lasted for three days. But in Goshen there were no locusts, and there it was light.

The Lord now bade Moses speak to the children of Israel and say: Tonight ye shall kill a lamb in every house and ye shall take the blood and put it on the two door posts. Ye shall roast the lamb and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs; and ye shall stand with your staff in hand, ready to go out.—Thus the Lord instituted the Passover.

At midnight the Lord passed through Egypt and slew all the first-born, from the first-born son of Pharaoh to the first-born of the slave. But He saw



the blood on the dwellings of Israel and passed over. And there was a great cry in Egypt, and Pharaoh urged Israel to go. So the Israelites went out of Egypt, 600,000 men who could go out to battle, and Moses took with him the bones of Joseph. And the Lord went before them in a pillar of fire by night, and a pillar of cloud by day, and he led them toward the Red Sea. But Pharaoh regretted that he let Israel depart, and he pursued them with all his chariots and overtook them at the Red Sea. Then the Israelites murmured against Moses and said: Were there not graves enough in Egypt, that thou must take us out in the wilderness to die? Moses answered: Today you shall see the salvation of the Lord. And he stretched forth his hand, and the water was divided, and the children of Israel walked over on dry ground, while the water stood as a wall on the right hand and on the left. The Egyptians pursued them, but when they were in the midst of the Red Sea, and the Israelites had passed over, Moses again stretched out his hand, and the waters returned and buried all the host of Pharaoh. (Ex. 5-14.)

## 22. WANDERING IN THE WILDERNESS.

The children of Israel were now come into the wilderness of Arabia. Here they lacked both water and food, murmured against Moses, and wished they were back to the flesh-pots in Egypt. Moses smote the rock with his rod, and there flowed water, and the Lord sent them manna for food. This lay every morning like hoar-frost on the ground, and melted when the sun rose.

In the third month after they had gone out of Egypt, the Israelites encamped at Mount Sinai. Three days after a thick cloud covered the mountain, and there was heard a sound as of a loud trumpet. The mountain shook and smoked as an oven, for the Lord descended in fire on the mountain. The Lord then spoke thus to the people:

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.
3. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

4. Honor thy father and thy mother, that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

5. Thou shalt not kill.

6. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

7. Thou shalt not steal.

8. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

9. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.

10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is his. (Ex. 16-20.)

At the command of the Lord Moses afterwards gave laws concerning worship. He made Aaron high-priest and after him his oldest son and thus successively from son to son. The other sons of Aaron became priests, and the other descendants of Levi, or the Levites, became their assistants.—A Tabernacle, or large tent, was raised and divided into two parts: The Holy of Holies, and the Holy. In the Holy of Holies was a chest, called the Ark of the Covenant, and a pot filled with manna. The ark was overlaid with gold, the cover was of pure gold, and was called the Mercy Seat. Only the high-priest must enter the Holy of Holies, and even he only once a year. The Holy was for the priests. Round about the Tabernacle was the Court, which was without roof, where the people should assemble.—The seventh day of the week was the day of rest, or the Sabbath.—There were three great feasts: The Passover, in memory of the passing out of Egypt; The Feast of Weeks, or Pentecost; and The Feast of Tabernacles, in memory of Israel's living in tents.—There were many kinds of sacrifices. The most important sacrifice was brought on the great Feast of Atonement, when the high-priest went into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled the blood of an ox and of a he-goat on the mercy seat for the sins of himself and of the people. (Ex. 23-29. Lev. 16)

## 23. MOSES RECEIVES THE TABLES OF THE LAW.

The Lord said to Moses: Come up to me on the mountain, and I will give thee the Tables of the Law.

Moses was with the Lord for 40 days and 40 nights. And the Lord gave him the Two Tables of the Law. They were written on both sides, the writing was the writing of God, it was written by God's own finger.—While Moses was on the mountain the people said to Aaron: Make us a god that can go before us, for Moses does not return. Aaron made a golden calf, and the people danced around it. When Moses came down from the mountain and saw the calf and the dance, his anger was kindled, and he cast the tables against the mountain so they broke. And he took the golden calf and ground it to powder and strewed it on the brook that runs down the mountain. Then he bade the Levites to go with drawn swords through the camp, and 3,000 were killed on the same day.—Moses went again on the mountain, and was there for 40 days and 40 nights, and he ate no bread and drank no water, and the Lord wrote the Ten Commandments on two new tables of stone. These were afterward kept in the Ark of the Covenant. (Ex. 24, 32, 34.)

#### 24. WANDERING IN THE WILDERNESS CONTINUED.

The Israelites went from Sinai toward Canaan, and Moses sent spies into the country. These returned, saying: The land is very good; but we are as grasshoppers compared to the inhabitants, of such stature are they. Joshua and Caleb, who were with the spies, replied: We can subdue the land, for the Lord is with us. But it availed not. The people would not go against the Canaanites but wished to choose a new leader and return to Egypt. Then the glory of the Lord appeared in the Tabernacle, and the Lord spoke thus by Moses: For forty years shall ye wander about in this wilderness, until all those are dead who were 20 years or over when ye went out of Egypt. None who hath seen my wonders in Egypt shall come into Canaan, except Joshua and Caleb. (Numb. 13, 14.)

Thus they must for 40 years wander about in the terrible wilderness among serpents and in dry places. But the Lord sustained them, so their clothes were not worn out, and their feet swelled not. Nevertheless they murmured against the Lord and many times tried His patience. Thus they once complained that

they had neither food nor drink. The Lord then sent fiery serpents among them, and many died from their sting. The people humbled themselves, and Moses interceded for them. The Lord said: Make a serpent of brass and set it upon a standard. When any one had been bitten of a serpent, and he looked up to the serpent of brass, he lived. (Numb. 21.)

When the 40 years were ended, the Israelites had come so near to Canaan that only the river Jordan lay between. Moses now went up into Mount Nebo, and the Lord showed him all the land and said: This is the land which I have promised to Abraham and Isaac and Jacob; but thou shalt not enter it. There Moses, the servant of the Lord, died, 120 years old, and the Lord buried him. There never since arose a prophet in Israel with whom the Lord spoke thus face to face. (Deut. 34.)

## 25. JOSHUA.

The Lord chose Joshua for leader in the place of Moses, and said to him: As I was with Moses, so will I be with thee. When the Israelites had mourned for Moses 30 days, they made themselves ready to go over Jordan. The priests went before with the Ark of the Covenant, and when their feet touched the waters of Jordan, the water flowed away below and stood still above, and the Israelites went over on dry ground. The manna now ceased, and they ate of the fruit of the land.

Jericho was a city surrounded with strong walls; but the Israelites took it without sword and bows. For six days the priests with the ark and all the armed men walked around the city, once every day. But on the seventh day they went around it seven times, and the seventh time the priests blew the trumpets and the people shouted, and the walls fell, and the town was taken.—After seven years Joshua had subdued 31 kings, and divided the land among the twelve tribes of Israel. The tribe of Levi received no separate portion of land, but 48 cities were given them among the other tribes.

After many years Joshua gathered the tribes of Israel together, and said to them: Choose ye this day, whom ye will serve, the Lord, or the gods of the

heathens; but I and my house will serve the Lord. The people said: We will serve the Lord and hearken to His voice.—Joshua died 110 years old. (Book of Joshua.)

## V. RULE OF JUDGES.

1435 TO 1095 B. C., 340 YEARS.

### 26. GIDEON AND JEPHTHAH. SAMSON.

The Israelites served the Lord while Joshua lived; but when he was dead they forgot the Lord, married the daughters of the Canaanites and served strange gods. Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against them, and He gave them into the hands of the heathens. They then cried unto the Lord, and He raised up men to save them. Such men were called Judges. (Judges 2.)

One of these judges was Gideon. The hand of the Midianites rested heavily on Israel, then the angel of the Lord came to Gideon, as he was threshing wheat, and bade him deliver Israel. Gideon sent messengers to the tribes, and 32,000 men met up. But the Lord said: There is too much people. Israel might boast and say: My own hand hath saved me. Proclaim therefore that whoever is afraid may go home. Then 22,000 went home, and 10,000 remained. The Lord said: There is yet too much people, choose thee 300 men. Gideon chose 300 men and divided them into three companies, and gave each man a trumpet and an empty pitcher with a torch in it. At midnight he went with them to the camp of the Midianites. They blew the trumpets, broke the pitchers and held up their torches. The Midianites cried and fled, and the Lord turned every man's sword against his neighbor, and Gideon pursued them. (Judges 6-9.)

Another judge was Jephthah. When he went out against the enemy, he made a vow to sacrifice to the Lord the first that came to meet him from his house, when he returned with victory. He came home victorious, and his daughter, his only child, came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances. Jephthah rent his garments, but did to her according to his



promise. And the maidens of Israel lamented Jephthah's daughter for four days every year. (Judges 11.)

When the Philistines oppressed the children of Israel, the Lord sent them a deliverer in Samson. He smote the Philistines again and again, for the Lord had given him such strength that he with his hands only tore asunder a young lion which came roaring against him. But he was deluded by a woman called Delilah. She succeeded in coaxing out of him the secret that his strength was in his seven locks of hair. These she shaved off and delivered him to the lords of the Philistines, who put out his eyes and set him to grind corn. Once when they were assembled to a great feast in the temple of Dagon, their god, they brought out Samson to make sport for them. His hair had now grown, and his strength had returned. The temple rested on pillars. Samson prayed to the Lord, laid hold on the two middle pillars and bowed himself with might. The temple fell and buried both Samson and his enemies. (Judges 13-16.)

## 27. RUTH.

At the time the judges ruled in Israel there was a famine in the land, and a man went from Bethlehem to the land of the Moabites with his wife Naomi and his two sons. The man died, and the sons married women of Moab, Orpah and Ruth. After ten years both the sons were dead, and Naomi made ready to return to the land of her fathers. Orpah and Ruth went with her. In the way Naomi said: Go back, my daughters! The Lord do to you as ye have done to the dead and to me. Orpah went back; but Ruth said: Thy people shall be my people, and thy God shall be my God. Only death shall part us. So they went together and came to Bethlehem. It was at the time of the barley harvest, and Ruth went out to glean heads of grain and came on a field of a rich man by the name of Boaz. When Boaz learned that it was Ruth, who had come with Naomi, he said to the reapers: Let grain fall on the ground that she may glean so much more. And to Ruth he said: If thou thirst come hither and drink, and if thou hunger come hither and eat of my bread. Ruth said: How have I, a stranger, found favor in thine eyes? Boaz answered: I have heard

what thou hast done for thy mother-in-law. Thou hast left father and mother and art come to a people thou didst not know. The God of Israel, to Whom thou hast come to seek refuge under His wings, He reward thee for what thou hast done! When the harvest was over Boaz took Ruth for wife, and she bare a son who was called Obed. He was the father of Jesse, and Jesse was the father of David the king. (Book of Ruth.)

## 28. ELI AND SAMUEL.

Eli was high-priest and judge. He had two sons who were exceedingly wicked; but he did not punish them.

The boy Samuel was brought up by Eli and slept in the Tabernacle of the Lord. One night the Lord called Samuel, and Samuel, who did not yet know the Lord, ran to Eli. But Eli answered: I did not call thee, lie down again. The Lord called yet two times to Samuel, and he ran each time to Eli. The high-priest now perceived that it was the Lord who called Samuel, and said to him: If He call thee again, answer: Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth. Samuel lay down again, and the Lord called the fourth time to Samuel, and he answered according to Eli's words. And the voice of the Lord said: Because Eli saw that his sons were wicked, and yet he did not restrain them, therefore I will send destruction upon him and upon his house. When Eli in the morning learned what the Lord had said, he replied: He is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good.

There was war with the Philistines, and the Israelites were defeated. So they brought the Ark to the camp; but they were again routed, and the Ark was captured by the Philistines. Eli was at that time 98 years old. He was seated in a chair and looked over the road, for he was anxious for the Ark of God. One who had fled from the battle came and told: Israel is defeated, thy sons are fallen, and God's Ark is taken. When he heard about the Ark of God, he fell backwards and his neck was broken, and he died.—The Philistines took the Ark and put it in the temple of the idol Dagon. But as a disease broke out in the land, they brought the Ark back and sent presents with it.

Samuel was the last of the judges. He journeyed through the land and judged, and he was honored by the people. When he was old, he made his two sons judges. They walked not in the way of their father, but sold judgment for money. Then the elders of the people came to Samuel and said: Now make us a king to judge us and go before us in our wars. This thing displeased Samuel, but the Lord said to him: Harken unto the voice of the people, for they have not rejected thee, but Me have they rejected that I should no longer be king over them. (1. Sam. 1-7.)

## VI. THE UNITED KINGDOM.

1095 TO 975 B. C., 120 YEARS.

### 29. SAUL.

The Lord spoke again to Samuel and said: Tomorrow I will send thee a man from the tribe of Benjamin. Him shalt thou anoint to be king over my people. On the morrow Samuel saw a man of the tribe of Benjamin, his name was Saul, the son of Kish. There was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he. From his shoulders upwards he was higher than any of the people. The Lord said to Samuel: Behold the man of whom I spoke to thee! And Samuel brought him into his house, took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and said: Now has the Lord anointed thee to be king over His people. On that day the Spirit of God came upon Saul, and the Lord gave him another heart. Then Samuel ceased to be judge.

Saul was brave and overcame the enemy; but he would also follow his own will and proved disobedient to the law of the Lord. Samuel therefore said to him: Thy kingdom shall not continue, for the Lord has chosen a man after his own heart, to be ruler over his people. And the Lord said to Samuel: Fill thy horn with oil and go to Bethlehem and anoint David, the youngest son of Jesse, to be king after Saul. And Samuel went and anointed David, and the spirit of the Lord came upon him from that day. But the spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him. His servants brought David

because he understood to play the harp. When the evil spirit came upon Saul David played the harp before him, and it went well with Saul, and the evil spirit departed from him. (I Sam. 8-16.)

### 30. DAVID AND GOLIATH.

There was again war with the Philistines. Among them was a mighty champion by name Goliath, who for 40 days came before the camp and mocked the Israelites, because no one dared to meet him in combat. The king promised to give his daughter to him who could slay the champion. When David came to the camp and learned this he offered to go against him. But Saul objected: Thou art young, and he is a warrior from his youth. David answered: Once while I kept my father's sheep, there came a lion and a bear and took a lamb; but I went against them, killed them, and saved the lamb. The Lord who delivered me from the lion and the bear, will also deliver me from this Philistine. Then Saul said: Go, and the Lord be with thee. David took his staff and his sling and five smooth stones from the brook, and went against Goliath. When the champion saw him he cried: Am I a dog that thou comest against me with staves? David answered: Thou comest against me with sword and with spear; but I come against thee in the name of the Lord, the God of hosts. Then he put a stone in his sling and threw it, and struck the champion in the forehead, so he fell to the earth. David ran and drew the Philistine's sword out of the sheath, and cut off his head. David was placed over the army and later he got Saul's daughter for wife. And Jonathan, the son of Saul, loved David as his own soul. (I Sam. 17.)

### 31. SAUL PURSUES DAVID. SAUL DIES.

When David returned after his victory over Goliath, the women sang: Saul slew a thousand, but David slew ten thousand. For this Saul became suspicious of David and was his enemy all his life. Twice he threw his javelin after David to spear him to the wall, while he stood playing before him. David was compelled to flee, and wandered about from place to place, for Saul was after him. When David once had hid-

den in a cave, Saul came into the same cave. David would not lay hand on the Lord's anointed, but went and cut off a piece of his garment. When Saul had left the cave David went out also, and showed him the piece. Saul wept and said: Thou art better than I, for thou hast rewarded evil with good, and Saul went to his house.—Nevertheless he again went in pursuit of David. While he and his people slept, David came to his bed and took away his spear and his jar of water. When Saul saw that David again had spared his life, he cried: Return, my son David, for I will no more do harm unto thee! But David went and dwelt in the land of the Philistines until Saul's death.

There was a great battle with the Philistines. Saul was wounded, and Jonathan was fallen. Saul then said to his armour-bearer: Thrust thy sword through me. But when he dared not lay his hand on the Lord's anointed, he placed the sword against his own breast and fell upon it and died. David lamented in a beautiful song the death of Saul and Jonathan. (1 Sam. 18:31. 2 Sam. 1.)

### 32. DAVID BECOMES KING.

After Saul was dead, David was made king, and he reigned for 40 years. He captured Jerusalem and made that city the capital, and then he and the whole house of Israel brought the Ark of the Covenant thither with shouts of joy and sound of trumpets. He executed judgment and justice to the whole people, and he remembered Jonathan, and said to his son: I restore to thee all the lands of Saul, and thou shalt eat at my table. He was the light and the sweetest singer of Israel, and composed many beautiful psalms, which are found in the Book of Psalms in the Bible, and speaks in many of these of the Messiah, or the Savior, Who was to come. He subdued the nations round about and was very powerful.

David intended to build a house for the Lord. But the Lord spoke to him through Nathan the prophet and said: When thy days be fulfilled, I will set up thy seed after thee. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. And thy house and thy kingdom shall be made sure for ever before thee. Thy throne shall be established for ever. (2 Sam. 2—10.)



### 33. DAVID'S FALL.

While Joab was warring against the Ammonites, David one evening saw from the roof of his house a woman bathing herself. She was Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah. He sent for her and committed adultery with her, and sent a letter to Joab that he should set Uriah where the battle was fiercest, that he might fall by the hand of the Ammonites. Joab obeyed his lord, and Uriah was killed. When David got Joab's message about this, he said: The sword devoureth one as well as another. When the time of mourning had passed for Bathsheba, he took her for wife. But the deed that David had done was evil in the eyes of the Lord.

The Lord sent the prophet Nathan unto David, and he said: There were two men in one city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing save one little lamb, which did eat of his morsel, and drink of his cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. And there came a traveler unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own heard, but took the poor man's only lamb, and dressed it for the wayfaring man. And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said: The man that did this is a son of death, and he shall restore the lamb fourfold. Nathan answered: Thou art the man! Uriah hast thou smitten with the sword of the Ammonites, and his wife hast thou taken to be thy wife. David humbled himself before the Lord and said: O God, create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Thou delightest not in sacrifice, else would I give it; Thou hast no pleasure in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit. A broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. And the Lord forgave him. Yet should the son Bathsheba had born him die soon, and much sorrow was to come upon David in his old age. (1 Sam. II-12.)

### 34. THE REVOLT OF ABSALOM.

Absalom, a son of David, was the comeliest man in Israel. There was no blemish on him from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Although his father loved him greatly, he desired to be king in his

father's stead. He placed himself by the road, and when any one came and would bow down before him, he embraced him and kissed him, and thus stole the heart of Israel from his father. He conspired with Ahithophel, David's counsellor, and came with an army against Jerusalem. So David was forced to flee for his son. Ahithophel counselled to immediately pursue his father. But Hushai, David's friend, advised him to wait, until he could gather a greater army. The Lord, wishing to bring destruction upon Absalom, caused Ahithophel's good advice to be rejected, and Ahithophel went and hanged himself. David thus gained time to gather an army. He set Joab over it, and said to him: Deal gently with the young man! There was a great battle in a forest. Absalom was compelled to flee, and riding under an oak, his head was caught in its boughs. The mule on which he rode ran away, and he was hanging between heaven and earth. Joab ran and thrust three javelins through his heart. When David heard of this he wept and lamented: O Absalom, my son, would I have died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!—When David after some time died, Solomon, the son of Bathsheba, became king. (2 Sam. 15.-18. 1 King 1: 1-2.)

### 35. SOLOMON.

God appeared unto Solomon in a dream and said: Ask, what I shall give thee. Solomon asked for wisdom. Shortly after two women came to him. They dwelt together and each had given birth to a child. As one of them had in the night smothered her child that it died, she arose and took the child of the other, and laid her own in its place. Each asserted now she was mother to the living child. Solomon said: Fetch me a sword! When the sword was brought, he said: Divide the child in two, and give half to one and half to the other. Then the one cried: Give her the child and do not divide it. The other said: Divide it, so it shall be neither mine nor thine. Then Solomon said: Give the child to her who wills it shall live, for she is the mother. All Israel heard the judgment and feared the king; for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him.—Solomon was wiser than all other men, and the fame of his wisdom spread abroad, and

the queen of Sheba came to hear him. He spoke 3000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005. He wrote of trees, from the cedar that grows on Lebanon to the hyssop that springs out of the wall. He wrote of beasts of the field, of the birds, of creeping things, and of fishes. He had peace round about and all Israel dwelt safely, each man under his vine and fig tree. He traded with distant lands and gathered gold and silver and precious stones in great abundance. On Mount Moriah in Jerusalem he built a magnificent temple instead of the Tabernacle, and put the Ark in the Holy of Holies.

When the temple was finished, Solomon knelt down and prayed: O Lord, the heaven, and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee; how much less this house that I have builded. Yet hear Thou in heaven, Thy dwelling place, every humble prayer that shall be sent up to Thee from this house! And when a stranger, that is not of Israel, shall come and pray towards this house, then hear Thou his prayers also!

Solomon did not continue faithful to the end. He had taken many heathen women for wives, and when he was old, they turned his heart, so that he built altars to the abominable idols of the heathens. And the people murmured because of heavy taxes and burdens. (1 Kings 3-II.)

## VII. THE DIVIDED KINGDOM.

975 TO 586 B. C., 389 YEARS.

### 36A. THE KINGDOM IS DIVIDED.

When Solomon was dead all Israel came together and said to his son Rehoboam: Thy father made our yoke heavy, make thou it lighter, and we will make thee king. Rehoboam first took counsel from the old men, who had been the counsellors of his father. They said: If thou wilt hearken to the people this day they will serve thee all thy days. Then he consulted the young men who had grown up with him, and he answered according to their counsel: My father's yoke was heavy, mine shall be heavier still. My father chastised you with whips, I will chastise you with goads. At this answer the people were provoked, and ten

tribes chose Jeroboam for king, and only Judah and Benjamin clung to Rehoboam for David's sake.—Samaria became the capital of the ten tribes, or the kingdom of Israel, and Jerusalem the capital for the two tribes, or the kingdom of Judah. (I Kings 12. 1-24.)

### 36B. THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL. JEROBOAM.

Jeroboam thought thus: If the people go up to Jerusalem to worship the Lord, their hearts will again turn to the house of David. He therefore set up two golden calves, and the people went and sacrificed to them. The Lord warned him, saying: Thou hast made thyself strange gods, therefore I will cut off thy house. His son became king, but was killed, and the whole family destroyed. There came kings of other families; but all were wicked and worshipped strange gods. (I Kings 12-15.)

### 37. AHAB AND ELIJAH.

The worst of all kings in Israel was Ahab. He married the wicked Jezebel, daughter of the king of Sidon, and built a temple for the idol Baal. The prophet Elijah foretold as a punishment a drought which lasted for three years, and the land thirsted for rain. Meanwhile Elijah dwelt with a poor widow in the city of Zarephtha, and the meal in her jar was not consumed, and the cruse of oil failed not. When her son died, Elijah prayed to the Lord, and the soul of the child came into him again.

When the three years were ended, Elijah went at the Lord's command unto Ahab and bade him call the priests of Baal together on Mount Carmel. The priests of Baal sacrificed an ox and called upon their god the whole day; but he answered not. Elijah said: Cry a little louder! Your god may be musing or perhaps he sleeps! At evening Elijah sacrificed an ox and prayed: O Lord, let it be known this day that Thou art God in Israel, and that I am Thy servant! Then there came fire from heaven and consumed his sacrifice. The people took the priests of Baal and slew them, and the heaven grew black, and there was great rain. But Jezebel sought the life of Elijah, but he fled to the wilderness and wished that he might die,

because Israel had broken the covenant with the Lord. But the Lord said: Return, there are yet left 7,000 who have not bowed the knee for Baal.

Naboth had a vineyard that Ahab wished to buy, because it lay close up to his palace. When Naboth would not sell his inheritance, because it was against the law of Moses, Ahab was sad, went to bed and would not eat. Jezebel said: Arise, eat and be merry, I will give thee the vineyard. She bade the judges procure witnesses to testify that Naboth had blasphemed God and the king. Naboth was stoned, and Ahab went to take possession of the vineyard. The Lord sent Elijah to him in the vineyard to say: There where the dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall they also lick thy blood, and dogs shall eat Jezebel. Ahab fell in a battle, and his blood flowed into the war-chariot, and when it was washed in Samaria, dogs came and licked the blood. Jezebel was thrown out from a window, and her body was eaten by dogs. (I Kings 16-22. 2 Kings 9 : 30-37.)

Elijah was taken up alive into heaven in a whirlwind, in a chariot of fire with horses of fire, and Elisha, who became prophet after him, stood and saw it. (2 Kings 2.)

### 38A. ELISHA AND THE CHILD.

One day when the prophet Elisha was travelling he came to a city called Shunem. Here lived a rich woman, and she asked him to come to her house.

She had no children, and when Elisha asked God to give her a child, He gave her a son.

One morning when the boy was about 10 years old, he went to the harvest field to see his father. While he was in the field, he became very sick and cried out: My head, my head. His father sent him home with a servant, but at noon he died in his mother's arms.

She then carried the boy to Elisha's room, and laid him on his bed. She hurried away and found Elisha and told him her sorrow. Elisha sent his servant to lay his staff on the face of the child, but that did not help any. Meanwhile the woman begged Elisha to come with her. This he did, and when they came to the house, Elisha went to his room, shut the



door and prayed to God, and at last the boy came to life. (2 Kings 4:8-37.)

### 38B. ELISHA HEALS NAAMAN.

Naaman was a captain in the army of the king of Syria. When he became very sick with leprosy there was no doctor in his country who could make him well. But he had in his home a little girl taken captive from Israel, who had heard of Elisha, the great man of God, how he made the sick well, and brought the dead back to life, and she told Naaman's wife that Elisha could make Naaman well again.

Naaman at last went to see this great man of God, and when he came, Elisha told him to go and bathe seven times in the river Jordan and he would be well. This made Naaman angry. He said there were rivers in his own country that had much cleaner water and he would not go and wash in the dirty waters of the river Jordan. But his servants told him that he had better do as Elisha had said. So at last he did, and when he had bathed seven times his flesh was whole and the sores were all gone. Naaman wanted to give Elisha rich presents that he had brought, but Elisha would not take them. (2 Kings 5:1-16.)

### 39. JONAH.

The Lord said unto the prophet Jonah: Go to Nineveh, the great city, and proclaim that it shall be destroyed, for its sins are great. But Jonah went aboard a ship to flee over the sea. The Lord sent a tempest, so the ship was at the point of sinking. The sailors said one to another: Let us cast lots to see whose fault it is that such evil befalls us. The lot fell on Jonah, and they cast him into the sea, and it was calm. The Lord sent a great fish that swallowed Jonah, and he was in the stomach of the fish for three days and three nights. The Lord commanded the fish, and it cast Jonah up on land. The Lord now spoke a second time to Jonah: Go to Nineveh and proclaim what I shall bid thee. Jonah went into Nineveh and cried: In 40 days Nineveh shall be destroyed! The people repented, and the king put off his royal garments, and clothed himself in sack cloth and ashes. It repented the Lord what He had spoken, and He

spared Nineveh. Then Jonah murmured and said: Did it not go, as I thought while I was in my country, and would flee over the sea? For I knew that Thou art a God merciful and slow to anger and repentest of evil.

Jonah had gone outside the city and remained there to see how it would go. The Lord let a plant spring up to give shade for his head, and Jonah was fond of the plant. In the morning the Lord prepared a worm, and it stung the plant, so it withered. And there came a sultry east-wind, and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, and he said: It is better for me to die than to live. Then said the Lord: Thou hast pity on the plant for which thou hast not labored, neither madest it grow, because it withered. Should not I have pity on Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than twelve times 10,000 persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand, and also much cattle? (The Book of Jonah.)

#### 40. THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL OVERTHROWN.

The kings and the people of Israel continued to do that which was evil in the sight of God, to provoke Him to anger. They forsook all the commandments of God, worshipped golden calves, sun, moon and stars, and served Baal. They even sacrificed their children to idols. And they would not heed the prophets whom the Lord sent to warn them. So the punishment came upon them. The king of Assyria, the powerful Shalmaneser, put Hoshea, the last king, in chains, and his successor took Samaria and carried the people to Assyria, 722 years before Christ. Israel never returned from their captivity.

The king of Assyria sent heathen people from his own lands to live in the cities of Samaria. God punished these people by sending lions among them which killed some of them. The people believed that this punishment came because they did not know the god of the land. So the king of Assyria sent them one of the priests who had been carried away, and he taught them how they should fear God. And by mingling with the Israelites who remained in the land, they learned something of the religion of Jehovah.

They are later called Samaritans. Yet the people of Judah never looked upon them as true brethren, and there rose a bitter enmity between the Samaritans and the Jews. (II Kings 17.)

#### 41A. THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH. JOASH.

When the king of Jerusalem died, his wicked mother, Athaliah, made herself the ruler of the people, and ordered all the king's sons to be killed. But the wife of the high priest Jehoiada, an aunt of these princes, hid one of the boys by the name Joash in the temple 6 years so that he was not killed.

When Joash was 7 years old, Jehoiada called the people together and Joash was proclaimed king, and his wicked grandmother, Athaliah, was killed. Joash was a good king, so long as Jehoiada lived. He repaired the temple that had been almost destroyed, and bought new vessels for it and sacrificed there to God.

But when Jehoiada died, wicked princes influenced Joash to leave God and serve idols. God sent a son of Jehoiada to speak to the king and people. But Joash became angry and caused him to be killed. The same year a heathen king came to Jerusalem and carried away many people, and Joash was killed. (2 Kings 11-12.)

#### 41B. HEZEKIAH AND ISAIAH.

In Judah kings of the house of David always reigned. Many of them were wicked and served strange gods; but a few were pious and served the Lord. Thus idolatry did not come to such power as in the kingdom of Israel.

The most pious of the kings was Hezekiah. Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, came against Jerusalem, and used great words, saying: Believe not that your God can deliver you, for the gods of the heathens were not able to deliver their countries from the king of Assyria. Hezekiah went up to the house of the Lord and prayed for deliverance. The prophet Isaiah sent this message to him: The Lord has heard your prayer. The angel of the Lord passed through the camp of the Assyrians and smote in one night 185,000, and Sennacherib was compelled to return home with disgrace.—

Shortly after this Hezekiah became sick. Isaiah promised him 15 more years to live in. The king of Babylon sent messengers with gifts and greetings to Hezekiah, for he had heard that he had been sick. Hezekiah was glad, and showed the messengers all his treasures. Then Isaiah came and said: These treasures shall all be carried away to Babylon, and thy sons shall be servants in the palace of the king of Babylon. (2 Kings 18-20.)

Isaiah has written many prophecies about our Savior Jesus Christ, which are found in the book of Isaiah.

#### **42A. THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH OVERTHROWN.**

The people fell off from the Lord, and King Manasseh sacrificed his own children to the idols, and the punishment had to come upon the kingdom of Judah also. The king of Babylon, the mighty Nebuchadnezzar, took Jerusalem, burned the temple and the city and tore down the walls. Zedekiah, the last king, was forced to look upon the slaying of his own children. Then his eyes were put out, and he was placed in chains and together with the people brought to Babylon in captivity 588 years before the birth of Christ. (2 Kings 21-25.)

### **VIII. THE CAPTIVITY, RETURN AND RESTORATION.**

#### **42B. THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY.**

The sins of the Jews were great, and their punishment was heavy. Now, when they were compelled to live among the heathens, they longed for the Holy City and the worship in the temple of the Lord. Yet the Lord left them not without consolation. From the prophecies of the prophet Jeremiah they knew that when 70 years were passed, the Lord would have compassion on them and bring them back to the land of their fathers. And the Lord sent two great prophets to them to console and strengthen them. These were Ezekiel and Daniel.

### 43. NEBUCHADNEZZAR.

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had a dream which he could not remember. Daniel prayed to the Lord, and both the dream and the explanation of it were shown him in a vision in the night. The king had seen a great image. The head was of gold, the breast and arms of silver. The stomach and thighs of brass, and the legs of iron and of clay. A stone, which was not thrown by the hands of man, struck the image and broke it to pieces. But the stone became a great mountain which filled the whole earth. Daniel interpreted the dream thus: There shall arise four great kingdoms after each other; afterwards God will establish a kingdom that shall overthrow all these, but shall itself remain forever.—The king said: Thy God is a God above all gods since he can reveal secret things. Daniel was now made ruler of the wise men of the country and remained in great respect and honor even after the death of Nebuchadnezzar.

Some time later Nebuchadnezzar had another dream about a great tree that was cut down. Daniel explained the dream to mean that the Lord was going to punish the king for his sins by taking his mind away, and he would be driven out to live among the cattle. Daniel urged the king to repent, but before the year was over the punishment came.

One day while walking in the palace the king boasted: Is not this the great Babylon which I have built by the might of my power, and for the glory of my majesty? While he yet spoke, there came a voice from heaven saying: O king Nebuchadnezzar, the kingdom is departed from thee. The same hour he lost his mind, and he was driven from men and he lived among the cattle and ate grass. His hair grew like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.

After 7 years he lifted his eyes up to heaven, and his understanding returned and he praised the Lord saying: I honor the King of heaven; for all His works are truth, and His ways justice. Those that walk in pride, He is able to abase. He was again made king and grew strong and great. (Daniel 2-4.)



#### 44. BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST.

When Belshazzar, the son of Nebuchadnezza, was king, he made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and at this feast they drank wine out of the silver vessels that had been taken from the temple in Jerusalem. They drank wine and praised their gods of gold, of silver, of wood and of stone.

While they were thus drinking, the king saw a man's hand that wrote on the plaster on the wall. The king could not read the writing and trembled with fear. He then called for all the wise men of the country, and said if any one could read the writing he should be clothed in scarlet and have a chain of gold about the neck, and be the third in power in the land.

The wise men came and looked at the writing, but none could read it. The queen then came in and she told them to send for Daniel. Daniel came and the king made him the same offer that he had made the wise men. Daniel answered that he did not want his presents, but that he would read the writing for him. He reminded the king of his wickedness, and how God punished his father because of his wickedness, and urged him to repent. Then he read God's message to him: Thou art weighed in the balance and art found wanting. Thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians. God's word came true, for that night the city was taken by Darius the Mede, and king Belshazzar was killed. (Dan. 5.)

#### 45. DANIEL.

Darius, king of Babylon, set 120 princes over his kingdom, and over them three presidents, of whom Daniel was first. The king was so pleased with Daniel that he made him the chief ruler over his whole kingdom. The princes and presidents became jealous of Daniel and tried to find fault with his governing. But they could find no fault because Daniel was faithful and true.

Then they persuaded the king to pass a decree that if any one prayed to any god except the king, for thirty days, he should be thrown into the den of lions. Daniel heard of the decree, but he prayed to God three times a day on his knees before the open window, as he had done before.

These wicked men were glad when they found Daniel praying to God, and went and told the king about it.

The king was very sorry when he heard that Daniel had broken the decree, but he said to Daniel: Your God, Whom you serve, will deliver you. Daniel was thrown into the den, but God delivered him. When the king called to Daniel the next morning, Daniel answered: My God sent His angel, who shut the lions' mouths, and they have not hurt me. The king was so glad because Daniel was saved that he passed a new decree that all the people in his kingdom should worship the God of Daniel. And the men who had accused Daniel were thrown into the den of lions and killed. (Dan. 6.)

#### 46. THE RETURN FROM BABYLON.

Cyrus, king of Persia, took Babylon, and permitted the Jews to return to the land of their fathers. He gave them back all the vessels of gold and silver from the temple that had been carried away by Nebuchadnezzar. The 70 years were then at an end. Those who went away were 50,000. Zerubbabel, a chief of the house of David, led them to Jerusalem. In the second year after their return they began to build a new temple on Mount Moriah, where the temple of Solomon had stood. The Samaritans wished to build the temple with them; but the Jews would not permit it, as they did not regard them as right brethren. The Samaritans therefore hindered the work for many years. But then the prophets Haggai and Zechariah arose and encouraged the people, and the temple was finished; but it was not as magnificent as Solomon's temple.—The Samaritans built a temple for themselves on Mount Gerizim.

Several years after this Ezra of the tribe of Levi came to Jerusalem and exhorted the people not to sin any more against the Lord by marrying heathen women. (Book of Ezra.)

#### 47. QUEEN ESTHER.

Esther was a beautiful Jewish girl born in Babylon during the captivity of the Jews. When her parents died, she was adopted by her cousin Mordecai.

When king Ahasuerus deposed his queen, Esther was chosen as his queen. He loved her, and set a royal crown on her head.

Some time after this the king promoted Haman to become chief over all the princes in the land. Haman hated Mordecai, and persuaded the king to make a decree that all Jews in Babylon should be destroyed. When Mordecai heard of the decree, he told Esther about it and said: Who knows but what you have come to the kingdom just at this time to save your people? Esther asked Mordecai and the Jews of the city to fast and pray for 3 days and she would do the same.

Esther then went to speak to the king. He was glad to see her, and offered to give her anything she would ask for, even half of his kingdom. Esther only invited him and Haman to a banquet the next day and he promised to come.

When they were seated at the banquet table the next day, the king asked again: What is your request, queen Esther? It shall be granted thee, even to half of the kingdom. Esther answered: If I have found favor in thy sight, O king, let my life be given me and the life of my people; for we are sold to be destroyed. Then answered the king: Who is he that dares to presume in his heart to do so? Esther replied: An enemy, even this wicked Haman. The king rose from the table very angry. He ordered Haman to be hung, and appointed Mordecai to take his office. With the permission of the king, Mordecai issued a new decree, and the Jews were saved from destruction. (Book of Esther.)

#### 43. THE MACCABEES.

Alexander the great, king of Macedonia, took Palestine from the king of Persia, as well as all his other kingdoms. When Alexander died his great empire was divided, and the Jews came first under Egypt and after that under Syria and were oppressed in every way. At last the Syrian king Antiochus Epiphanes sought to compel them to live as the heathens. Many renounced their faith and sacrificed to the gods. But many also continued firmly in the faith and chose rather to die than to turn from the law of the Lord.

Seven brothers' were successively scourged and tormented to death. The mother stood by and looked at and admonished them not to turn from the Lord. At last the mother also was killed. (2 Maccab. 7.)

At this time there lived in Judea a priest by the name of Mattathias. He would not sacrifice to the idols, but fled with his sons to the mountains, and those who feared God gathered about him. When he died, his son Judas Maccabeus became leader. He was brave as a young lion. He defeated the Syrians, took Jerusalem and purged the temple.—The Maccabees ruled over the country for a hundred years. Then the powerful Romans, who had their home in Italy, came and conquered the country. The Roman emperor Augustus made Herod king. Herod, who is called the great, was an Edomite. He was very suspicious and cruel, and killed a great many innocent people, even his own wife and three of his sons. He wished to flatter the people, and decorated the temple magnificently; but the people turned their hearts from him.—During his reign the fulness of time had come, and our Savior Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, as the prophet Micah had foretold.

#### 49. JOB.

Job was the name of a god-fearing man who had seven sons and three daughters, and owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 she-asses, and was the richest of all the men of the East. When his sons had feasted and eaten and drunk, he arose early and offered burnt offerings, for, said he: It may be, my sons have sinned and said farewell to God in their hearts. He was eyes to the blind, feet was he to the lame and a father to the poor; the aged arose before him, and princes were silent when he spoke.

One day when his children were feasting in the house of their elder brother, there came a messenger to Job and told: The oxen were plowing and the asses were feeding beside them, and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them away, yea, they have slain the servants, I only am escaped. While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said: Fire is fallen from heaven, and has burned up the sheep and the shepherd, and I only escaped. While he was yet speaking

came a third and said: The Chaldeans fell upon the camels, and have taken them away, yea, and have slain the young men with the edge of the sword. I only am escaped to tell thee. While he yet spoke, came a fourth, and said: Thy sons and daughters were eating and drinking in their oldest brother's house, and behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the house and it fell upon thy children, and they are dead. I only am escaped. Then Job rent his robe, but worshipped God, and said: Naked came I into this world, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord!

Job's whole body now became covered with boils, and he scraped himself with a piece of a broken pot and sat in ashes. His wife asked: Dost thou yet believe in God? Job answered: Thou speakest as one of the foolish women. Shall we receive good at the hands of God, and shall we not receive evil?

Three of Job's friends, hearing of his misfortunes, came to console him. But they could not know him, and they sat with him seven days and seven nights, and none spake to him for they saw that his grief was very great. When they began to speak, their words were harsh, for they thought that he must be a greater sinner than other men, since God sent greater afflictions upon him than on others. Then Job sinned; for he boasted of his perfection and disputed God's righteousness. Then the Lord spoke to Job out of a storm and said: Who art thou, that durst dispute with God? And Job answered: I have uttered that which I understood not. And God forgave him, and reproved his three friends because they had judged Job harshly.

God blessed Job. He was healed again, and got twice as much riches as before. He got again seven sons and three daughters, and lived a hundred and forty years after and died old and full of days. (Book of Job.)



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In most of these books prophecies concerning Christ are found. Malachi, the last prophet, foretells even of him who shall prepare the way for Him. The Lord says in the book of this prophet: Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me. And again He says: Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great day of the Lord.

Concerning these writings the Apostle Paul says: All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness. And the apostle Peter says: The holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

After these books come a number of others called Apocrypha. These were written by pious men and contain much that is good; but they are not inspired by God, as are the Holy Scriptures. Hence we dare not always use them as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. The most important are: The Book of Tobit, The Book of Wisdom, The Wisdom of Jesus. son of Sirach, and the two Books of the Maccabees.

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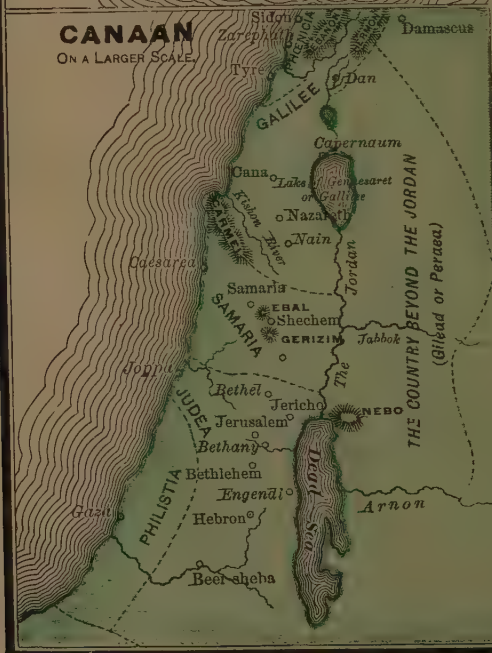
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